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Issue No 168

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Picture: ED HILL

HIGH-SPEED CELEBRATION

Judith Armitt from Ashford's Future and Jo James from the Invicta Chamber of Commerce celebrate the first year of high-speed train services from Ashford to London.

The 37-minute journey from the International Station to St Pancras has proved popular with passengers and has attracted new businesses to the town.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

BY ED HILL

POLICE fear a serial sex offender could be operating in the area after linking a recent sex attack on a young woman with an earlier sexual assault at Singleton Lake.

The most recent assault happened on Tuesday, December 7, on a footpath at Lodge Wood Drive, on the Orchard Heights estate.

A woman, aged 20, was walking along the dark footpath at about 5pm when she was approached from behind and then sexually assaulted. The attacker then ran off when the woman began to scream.

The nature of the sexual assault is similar to an incident that happened on Tuesday November 9 at a footpath by Singleton Lake less than two miles away.

In that attack an 18-year-old woman was also approached from behind in the late hours of the afternoon, forced to the floor and sexually assaulted.

Police set up a mobile police station the next day in Singleton to try and gather information from any local people who may have been in the area at the time.

An e-fit of the man suspected of the latest attack has been released by the police.

The 20-year-old victim describes him as a white male, aged in his 30s, of stocky build and clean shaven. He was wearing large tinted glasses to hide his identity and was wearing what the victim describes as a fisherman's style hat, a brown padded jacket, dark jeans and dark footwear.

Police have warned young women about the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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Closing alley to yobs is a safety risk

■ BY ED HILL

A PLAN to erect gates across Church Yard Passage to tackle anti social behaviour has been ruled out.

Residents around St Mary's churchyard had hoped the barriers, which would have been locked in the early hours, would prevent damage to their properties, graffiti, and incidents such as yobs urinating through letterboxes.

At a recent meeting of residents and representatives of the Community Safety Unit it was announced the gates could not be erected because of fire regulations.

Graham Rusling from the Kent County Council countryside access service told residents the gating order would not be allowed because the properties in Church Yard Passage only had one escape route into the passage.

However other measures were being taken to try and prevent the late night trouble in the area. Signs had been on lampposts, police patrols had been increased, new lighting would be erected and licensing officers had worked with pubs in the area to try and tackle some of the issues.

At this stage it was too early to tell if the measures were having any impact. However residents were still encountering problems. Recently there had been noise from the pubs and broken bottles were still being found in the area.

David Lloyd, community safety manager for Ashford council, told the meeting all available avenues to tackle the problem had been explored but monitoring would con-



TACKLING THE PROBLEM: Residents of Church Yard Passage want the antisocial behaviour they suffer to be stopped

tinue and individual problems would be addressed when possible.

One resident Jeremy Adby said residents were reasonably happy with what had been done but the problems were likely to continue.

He said: "We have got half of what we wanted and appreciate what has been done, but it has taken two and half years to get to this point. You can put up with noise but you shouldn't have to put up with people peeing through your door or causing criminal damage. If they increase patrols just during the day that won't solve things, it's at two in the morning we have the problems."

Mr Adby said the real problem was people having too much to drink, especially at weekends.

He said: "If things do not improve we will have to look at alcohol licensing. Supermarkets sell alcohol so cheaply people get in a much worse state than before because they drink before going to the pub."

"Licensing laws need to take much more into account when dealing with residential areas. Licensing committees don't seem to be aware of what residents like us have to put up with."



E-FIT: Do you recognise this man?

Police release image following sex attacks

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
dangers of walking alone in unlit areas at night.

Det Insp Angie Hobbs, from Kent Police, said: "We would like to remind people that they should always think about their personal safety."

"Unlit alleyways or footpaths should be avoided when it is dark and it is safer to walk with someone than to be alone."

Witnesses and anyone who might have information which could help with inquiries are asked to call Kent Police on 01622 690690.

Following the first incident a 26-year-old man was arrested. He has been released on bail pending further inquiries.

Free membership to boost town business

THE Ashford Town Centre Partnership is encouraging more businesses to join by offering free membership for the first four months.

The partnership is a network of businesses that aims to promote visitors and business in the town centre.

It says foot fall in the town has risen by 20 per cent over the last year. It wants more businesses to join so more events can be arranged for the town to attract shoppers and give feedback to the council on how to promote the town.

See www.ashford.towntalk.co.uk to find out more.

Trees cash to support nature

IN these times of bailouts and spending cuts, it may seem unusual to be spending over half a million pounds on Kent's trees, but the lottery money is vital for the very existence of our rural land.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has confirmed the grant of a little over £650,000 to ensure the county's trees and woodlands have a bright future.

The money will help pay for a project run by the environmental organisation BTCV.

As National Tree Week gets under way, the five year scheme will involve hundreds of people of all ages from across the region in an education and activity programme focused on Kent's rich stock of heritage trees.

The project will also survey and

record over 10,000 heritage trees across the county. It wants to celebrate and promote the value of heritage trees, which are defined by the Forestry Commission as "old trees, wide trees, rare trees and trees with historical and cultural significance".



HERITAGE: The trees can be rare or historic

record over 10,000 heritage trees across the county. It wants to celebrate and promote the value of heritage trees, which are defined by the Forestry Commission as "old trees, wide trees, rare trees and trees with historical and cultural significance".

Damian Green, MP for Ashford, backed the scheme: "This is a really exciting project. I hope it puts Kent's young people in touch with their natural heritage. We have so many great woodlands to

enjoy in the county that we should celebrate them as much as possible."

The cash will pay for two officers to oversee all the activities, plus run a programme of courses for 330 volunteers to become Heritage Tree Surveyors.

It will also fund 24 habitat management courses and 64 biodiversity courses, all of which will be open to the public.

On top of that, there will be 480 Woodland Wonder educational sessions, which although aimed at those under 35, are open to all.

These will provide an introduction to practical conservation and the natural world with fun activities like welly walks, natural art and music, tree decorating and mini-beast hunts.

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Way out in front after one year at high-speed

■ BY ED HILL

MONDAY saw the first anniversary of the high-speed rail service.

The impact for travellers and business has been dramatic, with many towns in the east of the county now an easy, if expensive, commute to the capital.

Southeastern, which operates the service, says in Ashford 66 per cent of journeys to London are now taken on the Hitachi 395 Javelin trains and the number of passengers continues to rise.

This adds up to 7.2 million high-speed journeys made in Kent in the first year.

Vince Lucas, service delivery director for Southeastern, said: "Numbers have been strong from Ashford, Canterbury, Folkestone and Dover, and passenger satisfaction is rated at 95 per cent. Ashford is capitalising on that growth. House building has increased despite the recession and house prices are up £12,000 on average, adding £1.4 billion to the wealth of the town."

It now takes just 37 minutes to get to St Pancras from Ashford, but not all areas are seeing the benefit of the new trains.

Ebsfleet station was built in 2007 to serve a community that would grow around it, but the recession has dented those plans.

Mr Lucas said: "The expectation in 2005 was that Ebsfleet would see development from the station through to Bluewater."

"Up to 2008, work was progressing, but then recession hit and the profit margin for building houses dropped and what should be an emerg-



SPEARHEAD: Hitachi's Javelin high-speed services have transformed our connections with the capital

ing town is still empty chalk pits."

However, Mr Lucas said the new station was attracting customers from Dartford and Gravesend. From Canterbury, passenger numbers are slightly higher than Ashford.

In Folkestone and Dover there is increasing demand for the high-speed service from passengers, despite the premium price.

However, for people on the north Kent line the benefits are less clear. Down the line the development of Stratford for the Olympics may produce job opportunities for those living in the Medway towns.

But Ashford is the clear winner when it comes to the benefits of the high-speed rail travel – a reward for agreeing to have the line pass through the town when the Channel Tunnel was built. The Hitachi depot has brought 100 jobs to the town, maintaining rolling stock around the clock, and business parks are being leased by companies happy to relocate.

Alistair Dormer, managing director of Hitachi Rail Europe, said: "It was a big challenge for Hitachi to introduce a new high-speed train to the UK. The maintenance crews have done a good job of keeping them clean."

Electrical blaze sparks warning

FIREFIGHTERS tackled a small blaze caused by a dishwasher in Shadoxhurst.

Two crews from Ashford were sent to a home in Hornash Lane just before 10.30am on Sunday.

Steve Griffiths, director of community safety at Kent Fire and Rescue, said: "Fires can break out in appliances and power outlets with very little warning."

"I recommend homeowners never operate white goods such as dishwashers, tumble dryers or washing machines while out of the property or overnight."

The number of electrical fires increases at Christmas due to people using more adaptors and power strips.

Mr Griffiths said: "Contact a qualified electrician if you notice hot plugs and sockets, fuses that blow for no obvious reason, lights that flicker and brown scorch marks on sockets and plugs."

Cable theft plea

POLICE have discovered 100 lengths of telephone cable lying in a road near Bethersden.

They were alerted to the theft after an alarm was set off at a business premises in Sandy Lane.

Officers believe the cables could be linked to a series of metal thefts on the night of Monday, December 6.

Cable worth £500 was also taken from Old Surrenden Road.

After a search, an abandoned vehicle was found in a field off Pluckley Road.

Police would like to speak to anyone who may have seen a dark-coloured 4x4 Land Rover Discovery in the vicinity of Sandy Lane or Old Surrenden Manor Road.

Contact officers on 01622 690690 and quote crime reference number FY/19209/10. Alternatively, call the free and confidential Crimestoppers line on 0800 555111.

Stove fire rescue

A MAN was taken to hospital on Friday after a blaze in Beech Drive, Hothfield, was started by a wood-burning stove.

The man had lit a fire for his sister to warm her house before she returned home.

When he came back a couple of hours later, he noticed the kitchen lights were off and was confronted with thick, black acrid smoke.

Firefighters from Charing and Ashford arrived just before 8pm and tackled the blaze.

The brother, believed to be in his 40s, was treated for smoke inhalation before being taken to William Harvey Hospital as a precaution.

The blaze caused fire damage to the ground floor and the rest of the property suffered smoke damage.

Farm death arrest

ANOTHER man from Ashford has been arrested in connection with the death of Sussex farmer Julian Gardner.

The 37-year-old was detained on Friday and taken to Eastbourne to be interviewed by police. He has been bailed until January 27. This is the eighth arrest in relation to the case.

Five of the suspects are from Ashford with the others from Tunbridge Wells, Sandhurst and North Wales. Mr Gardner, 53, was found dead at his home in Robertsbridge on October 11.

Council's heavy hit in budget squeeze

ASHFORD is to bear a larger burden under spending cuts announced by the Government on Monday as part of its latest funding settlement.

The average drop in councils' spending power across the country is 4.4 per cent.

However, Ashford is to face a reduction of 8.9 per cent over two years. Along with Thanet, this is the highest figure in the county.

Local authorities get about two-thirds of their funding direct from central government with the rest being raised through council tax, business rates and charging for services.

With the Coalition Government announcing a freeze on local authorities raising council tax, this means budgets are increasingly tight.

Ashford Borough Council anticipated the likely squeeze in its budget by making a five-year business plan. It hopes to reduce its spending by 15 per cent – about £3.7 million – over five years, through measures such as a pay freeze, reducing CCTV and reduced maintenance for parks and road verges.

Eric Pickles, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, said: "There has been

a great deal of speculation and scaremongering about what the implications of the local government settlement might be. The reality is that despite the toughest economic circumstances in recent memory, the Coalition Government will ensure that next year the average reduction in councils' spending power will be 4.4 per cent."

The Government says it wants to maintain levels of funding for the areas that most needed.

"It will also give councils more control over what they can spend their money on and encourage voluntary organisations to do more through its Localism Bill."

Mr Pickles said: "Councils now have unprecedented freedoms over how to prioritise their money."

"The need to reduce public spending means this is a unique settlement, but also a unique opportunity for councils to show how efficient they can be, root out the wasteful spending that still exists and ensure money goes to the frontline public services."

Now that Ashford council knows the final figures from the Government, it will announce its final budget for 2011/12 in February.

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End of quango 'not the end of growth plans'

■ BY ED HILL

COUNCIL leader Peter Wood has said he is still committed to Ashford's growth, despite winding up the Ashford Future Company.

He said: "We remain fully committed to growth and will continue to work with our partners and the new Local Enterprise Partnership to ensure Ashford remains a prosperous and vibrant growing town."

The decision, approved by the council Executive last Thursday, is because of the change in the economic climate and the new Government's emphasis on localism.

Cllr Wood said: "The Ashford's Future Company has played an important part in securing funding and helping to deliver the growth programme to date. However, we are operating in different times."

"It is prudent to reassess the most appropriate way for Ashford to manage its growth."

Mr Wood said the town's growth funding would now have to come from the new Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), a combination of local authorities and business.

Ashford will be part of the Kent, Greater Essex and East Sussex LEP, the largest in the country.

Mr Wood said he had already spoken to Government ministers about the borough's future.

He said: "At a recent reception at No 10 Downing Street, I had the opportunity to outline our approach for taking forward the growth of Ashford, and working with Bob Neill, the Minister for Local Government and Planning. He was very supportive."

Cllr Kevin Lynes, Kent County Council cabinet member for regeneration, said: "The regeneration of Ashford is critical in this part of Kent. However, under the coalition government we are in different times and our approach to delivery needs to reflect this."

Control over existing projects will now be transferred to Ashford council and Kent County Council. There will be a review of the growth programme over the next six months



COMMITTED TO GROWTH: Council leader Peter Wood and below, yourashford's front page story last week



and a bid for Regional Growth Funding.

The Ashford's Future Company was set up in November, 2008, to oversee Ashford's growth agenda and provide new infrastructure and key developments in the town.

It successfully bid for schemes such as the improvements to Junction nine of the M20.

At the council meeting, Cllr Neil Bell said: "Even if new funding is available, we have to go back to what is good for residents of Ashford."

yourashford
NEWS IN BRIEF

Homelessness on the rise

THE charity Shelter says the number of homeless households in the town has doubled.

According to statistics from the Department for Communities and Local Government, 72 households were accepted as homeless by Ashford council, more than double than in the previous quarter.

The charity also says the figures show 99 households in Ashford will be spending Christmas in temporary accommodation.

Nationally, the number of homeless acceptances is up 17 per cent.

Campbell Robb, chief executive of Shelter, said: "It is really worrying to see homelessness is on the rise. Shelter is urging anyone struggling with housing costs to seek advice. Our free housing helpline is there to help when things start to spiral out of control."

Call Shelter's helpline on 0808 800 4444 or visit www.shelter.org.uk.

Church services moved

FESTIVE services at St Mary's Church will be held in the church hall this year as the refurbishment work continues.

Services at St Mary the Virgin church hall over Christmas are: Sunday December 19, 10 am Family Communion and Nativity and at 6.30pm the traditional carol service.

On Christmas Day, Holy Communion will be at 8am and Family Communion will be at 10am and the same times will apply for Boxing Day.

For more information, visit the parish web-site at www.stmarysashford.org.uk.

Cold snap sparks blazes

FIRE crews from Ashford station attended a chimney fire at a home in Hamstreet on Monday morning.

Officers say there has been a sudden rise in call-outs as people try to find additional ways to heat their homes during the cold snap.

In one incident fire engines from Lydd, New Romney and Dymchurch were called to a fire which started when a pile of wood stored next to a stove caught light.

Director for community safety, Steve Griffiths advised residents if they planned on using an open fire or wood stove to ensure the chimney flue had been swept recently.

Features add up to new public space

THIS artist's impression of how fencing around the new John Wallis Square will look has been revealed.

The plaza will be the centrepiece to Victoria Way, a new town centre street south of the railway line in Ashford.

Planners hope the road will help with development in the area and improve travelling choices for those coming to and from the town centre and station.

Mathematician John Wallis was born in Ashford and pioneered various theories such as the symbol for infinity.

Bespoke architectural fencing will create a natural edge to the square. Different materials and finishes will be used to create an art trail, with etched text and symbols relating to John Wallis's work.

When completed the new route will have parking restrictions along the entire length and a 30mph speed limit reducing



to 20mph either side of the school.

Judith Armitt, managing director of Ashford's Future, said: "John Wallis Square will be a fantastic public space for residents to enjoy, with seating, lighting and landscaping. This will be the focal point to the Victoria Way, which over time will face out on to shops, restaurants, cafés and homes."

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Leisure centre's £1.1m makeover

TENTERDEN Leisure Centre is to get a £1.1 million revamp.

The building was opened by Princess Diana 20 years ago but is now beginning to show signs of its age.

Ashford council's executive agreed the new funding on Thursday.

The money has been earmarked for the Tenterden Leisure Trust (TLT) which has secured a new and improved contract with the leisure providers Serco Leisure Ltd.

The new contract no longer requires the council to make an annual operation subsidy to the centre. It will save £96,000, in exchange for an agreement to fund a set of phased improvements to the centre.

Renovation

Portfolio holder for culture at Ashford council Cllr Bernard Heyes said: "The Leisure Centre is in need of renovation and improvements, to accommodate the town's growing population."

"In our recent public survey on council services, residents highlighted leisure and sport as a priority for them, so any revenue savings we make must not be to the detriment of this highly valued facility."

Proposed improvements to the building include refurbishing the swimming changing rooms, adding more showers and lockers, new gym equipment, new furniture for the reception and main hall, and improving the health suite and Rainbow Room.

There are also plans to convert one of the underused squash courts to a free weights area joined to the main gym.

Chairman of TLT John Rymer-Jones said: "This will be a fitting reward for the loyalty and patience our 1,000 members have shown us over the years."

New Bill gives us more of a say in planning

THE Government wants to make it easier for people to make changes to their own homes.

The move is part of its Localism Bill and will also give them more control of planning in their area.

The coalition says the planning system is too bureaucratic. Last year councils spent more money on making planning decisions despite a downturn in the number of applications.

But councillors do not believe this will mean people will end up building anything they want.

Cllr Richard Honey, Ashford's portfolio holder for development management, said: "It seems to make sense that relatively small developments should not be subject to the same rigorous and demanding system as urban extensions or shopping centres."

"This is trying to strike a more sensible balance. It will still be subject to reasonable limits."

Under the new proposals residents will be able to form what are described as 'neighbour-

■ BY ED HILL

hoods' giving them a say in how they want development to happen in their area. They will then have to be formally recognised by the local authority.

Mr Honey, a solicitor who specialises in planning, said the change would mean current consultations such as parish plans will actually have power to influence decisions.

He said: "This will give them a real status that will mean something. I think the Government is trusting people to be grown up about planning. If they say they don't want development of any kind it is not going to help things. People will have to take a sensible view of things."

Mr Honey gave the example of a village that might agree to a small amount of housing so its schools and shops could be sustainable or agree to building bungalows so older people could stay in the area.

He said: "If it turns out it is hijacked by the nimby lobby it won't get anywhere. We need a



BUILDING CONTROL: 'Neighbourhoods' will be able to make collective decisions on development in their local area

cross section of society with an interest in their village or their part of Ashford to set out realistic plans for the future."

The new legislation will also mean an end to back gardens being classified as brownfield sites making them easier to build on and minimum density targets which meant at least 30 homes had to be built on every hectare of land.

Mr Honey said he hoped the new legislation would encourage people to get more involved in local issues.

He said: "This is the whole approach from the Coalition Government. If you give people more responsibility they will be keener to do the job."

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QUESTION & ANSWER

TOM HILL



Q Can you tell us a bit about the history of the museum?

A It started back in the 1930s, when two people at the East Malling agricultural research station started collecting tools and machinery that had been used in the past.

They were part-time lecturers at Wye College, and started to gather the collection there, where it continued to expand. In the 1950s, the college bought this property and 100 acres of land that went with it for its farm.

They did not need the barn for agricultural purposes, so it was decided to move the collection here. In the mid 1990s, the college could not afford to keep the museum any longer, so a charitable trust was formed so we could buy the barn and run the museum.

Q How old is the barn and what do you keep in it?

A It dates back to the 1300s and is one of the best original examples of a great-aisled barn in Kent. The collection centres on agricultural items that were used in the county before the age of the internal combustion engine and electricity. The objects range from small hand tools that would have been used by farm workers to quite large machinery, such as wagons and ploughs. The smaller items are kept in an oast house on the site.

Q Do you think people are becoming more interested in how food was grown and the history of farming?

A Yes, not only in the ways that things were done in general, but also the lessons we might be able to learn from the past. When we get children in here they are fascinated that so many people were involved in agriculture and how they used the machines.

Q What sort of visitors do you get?

A Our visitor profile is mainly children and the older generation. That can be very helpful, because older visitors come along who worked in farming and teach us things we did not know.

Q How did your involvement with the museum begin?

A I used to teach biology at Wye, and in the last few years I moved into administration and one of those responsibilities was secretary of the museum. When the trust was formed I was asked to continue and at that point I became a lot more involved. It is run entirely by volunteers but we have very supportive members of the board.

Q What is the importance of museums like this?

A Like any museum, it is important to help understand the present by having a good understanding of the past. More specifically for agriculture it plays an important role in our social history. After all we have been farm-

ing almost since the beginning of history, and food production is vital to our survival.

Q What is your favourite item in the museum?

A There are many, but one is a very big metal hat associated with the hop industry. When dried hops were being shovelled into huge sacks it was done in an Oast House. The sack hung through the floor and one man would be put in the sack to trample the hops down as it was filled. He would slowly rise out of the sack as he did so. He was given this great big hat with a massive brim to protect him from the hops as they were thrown down over him below.

Q How do you see the future of the museum developing?

A We are trying to grow our ties with interested groups and local schools to get more visitors. We are actually full of objects and have very little more room for large items. For example, we have a large threshing machine which we have no room for. Unfortunately, because our buildings are all Grade 1 listed we can't add to them anymore. However, we do want to build up our archives particularly in areas such as film and video.

The museum is open Saturdays and Sundays from May to September. To find out more or arrange a visit call curator Brian Wimsett on 01304 824969 or e-mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

Q & A

The secretary of The Wye Rural Museum Trust, which runs the Agricultural Museum in Brook, talks to **Ed Hill** about how it all started and the renewed interest in how people originally grew food in the county

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Christmas fair has community spirit

A CHRISTMAS fair was held in Stanhope last Friday.

The Salvation Army and reindeer for petting were part of the attractions along with Santa in his Grotto.

The event was organised by the housing association involved in the regeneration of the area.

Jan Henry, Moat's community development officer said: "We have organised a series of events like this at Stanhope in the past and there has always been a good turnout. The fair brings people together and forms bonds between neighbours who may not have met otherwise."

The Stanhope neighbourhood is undergoing a £150 million regeneration. The refurbishment of 323 homes has already been completed.

Are you registered to vote in 2011?

WITH local elections due next May the council is encouraging people to ensure they are registered to vote.

The annual voting canvass took place earlier in the autumn but if residents missed the opportunity to return the form put through their door or their details have changed they can still register online.

On the council's website they can find the Household Registration Form which is updated each month between August at December, visit www.ashford.gov.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/register_to_vote-1.aspx

You can also call the councils' electoral services team on 01233 330402.

'Good' Ofsted rating is a Sure Start for centre

■ BY ED HILL

A CHILDREN'S centre in South Ashford has been recognised for the service it provides to families.

The Willows Centre in Brookfield Road has just had its latest inspection from Ofsted. The Government watchdog for schools and children's services.

The centre received a grading of 'good' for its overall performance. In the individual areas 11 were rated 'outstanding' and eight 'good'.

The inspectors say they were impressed by the close working relationship between staff at the centre and those from a wide range of professional groups.

Feedback from parents and carers also praised the services. They say they appreciate the welcoming environment with many describing the centre as a 'lifesaver'.

Willows was originally set up in 2004 as part of the Labour government's Sure Start Programme. According to the report it serves a community ranked within the top 30 per cent of the most deprived areas in the country.

It is one of eight centres in Ashford that work

together to provide a variety of services to children under five years and their families.

The centre's services have helped families gain confidence in their parenting skills, assisted them with their employment prospects and made a difference to their children's lives.

Co-ordinator of Ashford's children's centres, Alan Collado, said: "The Ofsted grading is a testimony to the staff at the centre who strive to provide a high quality service for families in the area. I am delighted the inspectors recognised that commitment, awarding an outstanding judgement for leadership and governance. The capacity to improve was rated outstanding. Everyone is determined to make our services the best they can be."

The report said: "We found there are a wide range of services to help you to keep parents and children safe, for example, the weekly police surgeries and the opportunities to undertake first-aid training."

"The centre is working well with other part-



'LIFESAVER': Parents have praised the Willows Centre for its support and help throughout parenthood

ners, such as health visitors and midwives, and mothers benefited from the good support offered for breast feeding by the team of Breast Mates."

Kent County Council cabinet member for children and families, Sarah Hohler, said: "Children's centres have been a real success story. I regularly hear from centre staff, mums and dads about the difference these fabulous places have made."

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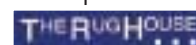
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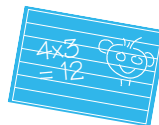
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BREAK TIME

Girls grammar to become an academy

HIGHWORTH Grammar School will become an academy in the next term.

The girl school's governing body agreed the change at a recent meeting.

Academy status means the schools will receive funding direct from central government instead of through the local education authority. The school will become an academy from January 1.

Peter Aves, chair of governors said: "The school will continue to be known as Highworth Grammar School, and its present status as a selective school together with its admissions policy will remain unchanged.

"This is an important event which will help consolidate Highworth's position as an outstanding school. It provides the school with a greater ability to manage its funds and to set its future strategy.

"All the present staff will transfer to the new school, and staff and Governors alike will continue to provide the students with the best possible opportunity to succeed."

Enjoy special time

PARENTS at Ashford Oaks Primary School parents are being encouraged to spend time with their children.

The Special Time project suggests ideas to bring children and parents together.

This term's task was to make an autumn collage. Children were asked to take a walk in the park with their parents and collect as many different leaves as they could.

They were then told to go home, make a cup of hot chocolate and plan how they would lay the leaves on a sheet of paper.

Winning trio strike all the right notes

BY ED HILL

A MUSIC competition was held at the Norton Knatchbull Grammar School, highlighting the best young talent from across the county.

The live performance was part of the first ever Shiva Nova Equator Music Competition.

There were 15 entries, including applicants from Norton Knatchbull, Folkestone School for Girls, Harvey Grammar School, Folkestone Youth Project, Brockhill Park School in Hythe and Rochester Grammar School. Individual entries were also able to take part.

Performers ages ranged from 10 to 18 and included vocalists, saxophonists, guitarists, pianists and a violinist, performing jazz, classical, hip hop and pop.

The youngsters were judged by a panel of experienced musicians including Benjamin Rouse from Kent Music, Daryl Brown, and Priti Paintal, the composer and artistic director of ShivaNova. They had a difficult task deciding who should go through to the next round as the standards were so high.

After much deliberation three finalists were picked to go through to the second stage of the event. They will receive help and support from professional musicians in preparation for the



TALENTED: Top, Sophy Jansen played guitar. Middle Asha Parkinson played saxophone, and Luke Jackson on guitar

final spring performance in 2011.

Asha Parkinson, 11, from Tonbridge, impressed judges with her improvisation around Alfie's Theme on the saxophone.

The second winner was Luke Jackson, aged 16, from Canterbury. He played his own song Run and Hide on the guitar. Luke has a wide range of influences including folk, rock and country music and has already played shows and festivals all over England.

Sophy Jansen from Rochester Grammar School was the third winner. She performed

guitar and vocals on her own composition Spider-man. The 17-year-old has achieved Grade 5 on guitar with merit and has performed at Under Siege 2010 at Rochester Castle Gardens.

The standard was so high Equator has decided to invite a few other extremely talented young artists to their spring concert.

The competition was staged in association with Kent Music and is aimed at encouraging and developing exciting, interesting and unique young artists from the county.

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YOUR LETTERS

Hidden agenda of insurance 'myths'

How interesting that while insurers continue to swamp the media with stories perpetuating the myth of the compensation culture, the media has barely mentioned the House of Commons Transport Committee inquiry into the cost of motor insurance.

A cynic might be forgiven for thinking that this is because insurers don't want any attention focused on insurance premiums which have rocketed in the past couple of years out of all proportion to their own 'fudged' statistics on the supposed increase costs of claims. The insurers blame the lawyers, yet legal costs have been fixed for the vast majority of road traffic accident claims since 2003.

And significantly reduced costs were agreed with the insurance industry only six months ago to a point where, frankly, they cannot go any lower without effectively leaving innocent victims to either pay their own legal fees or fend for themselves.

Furthermore, insurers receive substantial income in referral fees themselves. These come from credit hire companies for passing on details of their own innocent policy holders who have suffered road traffic accidents, and from solicitors to whom insurers 'sell' their own innocent policy holders' claims.

It is a scandal of national proportions that an insurance industry which receives a guaranteed income stream in the form of compulsory third party insurance – and receives referral fees for effectively encouraging people to claim for their road traffic injury – should be allowed to clobber innocent motorists with premium increases which they then try and blame on everyone else in the market but themselves.

Neille Ryan, partner,
Furley Page Solicitors,

Youth paying heavy cost of exclusion

Too many young people are still feeling the effects of the worst recession in recent history.

Those with fewest qualifications are being pushed further back in the queue for work, leaving thousands stranded in the dole queue. This month, the Prince's Trust and the Royal Bank of Scotland Group have released their cost of exclusion report which revealed how much this youth disadvantage is costing the UK.

In the South East alone, youth unemployment could cost up to £15.8 million a week through benefits and lost productivity. Even a conservative estimate – based on lost productivity being equivalent to Jobseeker's Allowance – suggests that youth unemployment costs per week for the South East would be more than £4.6m a week.

Based on lost productivity being

your blogger

Message to Southeastern Trains – commuters are also taxpayers, says Trevor Moss...



SO THERE I was, on a high-speed train, having got on, on time, at Folkestone West and heading for London.

But sure enough and yet again, found myself at Omph while sitting outside Ashford station waiting for the connecting units to trundle down the track from Canterbury. The outcome being another delayed connection made at the platform.

I question whether Ashford station platform is the right place for rolling stock to be connected, particularly Hitachi class 395 rolling stock.

The number of computer crashes as a result of cobbling two trains together makes a joke of the premium fare high-speed service.

Apparently no changes to the timetable are anticipated to provide for independent trains to run down the line and back from their respective branches until 2012, the same year that London Olympics authorities plan to commandeer all these trains for weeks, with Southeastern's full consent, to run between St Pancras and Stratford, to the detriment of regular users.

Anyway, I dutifully completed the questionnaire given to me en route asking for my views on Southeastern. It was a pathetic attempt to placate travellers by asking for their opinions after the lack of services due to the wintry weather of the previous week. This list of half-baked questions were not the ones I really wanted to ask or answer. Like, how on earth does Southeastern justify the hike in fares by

up to 12 per cent when people are getting zero per cent salary reviews and an unreliable service?

If we were in France, we'd all be refusing to pay fare increases. In fact, in France, there would be a week of demonstrations where people would storm the trains and refuse to pay fares at all. Now there's a thought.

Of course, we know what the cop-out statement on fare rises is going to say: "But the Government has reduced subsidies, therefore the traveller has to bear the brunt, not the taxpayer."

Well, Mr Southeastern representative, I am a taxpayer and a commuter, but I don't see any tax rebate coming from the Government in relation to its reduced obligations to fund the rail network.

To cap it all, on the way home, I got to the station to find, yes you've guessed it, that the Folkestone-bound high-speed train was terminated at St Pancras, once more due to technical difficulties.

While waiting for half an hour at a bleak Stratford International I saw four trains head in the direction of St Pancras, but no one at Southeastern thought to turn one of these around to form a replacement service. Eventually, it was standing room only on the next train.

With the level of criticism Southeastern is getting, from Kent MPs to the daily customer, this company isn't the future of travel in Kent but will be recognised as part of the failed history of privatisation of the rail network in this county. The sooner Southeastern loses its franchise the better.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, Gareth Arnold, on 01303 817025 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Ashford blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourashford.co.uk.

equivalent to the average weekly wage for their age group, the cost of youth unemployment in the South East is £15.8 million a week.

Youth charity the Prince's Trust can give young people the skills and confidence to leave the dole queue for good for a fraction of this cost. At this time when there is huge pressure on the public purse, the cost of exclusion report shows it is possible to help young people into jobs while saving the state billions.

Government, charities and employers must work together now to deliver this change. Find out more at www.princes-trust.org.uk or call 0800 842 842.

Rosemary Watt-Wyness,
Prince's Trust regional director

Our indispensable pharmacy heroes

Often seen as the unsung heroes of the health service, pharmacies across east Kent do much more than just dispense drugs.

Each year, millions of people visit their local pharmacy first when they are feeling under the weather and need advice on medical remedies to help relieve symptoms of illness, such as colds and flu.

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent's Your Health team feel it is time those pharmacies got the recognition they deserve, and patients and public are asked to nominate their local pharmacies they feel go the extra mile or provide exceptional

services to their patients.

Pharmacists train for five years to qualify and they are able to recognise and provide medicines for a range of common health problems including eye infections, stomach upsets and allergies.

They are also taking on much wider roles and many run weekly clinics to help people lose weight, stop smoking, and monitor patients blood pressure or cholesterol.

To be in with a chance of winning a family ticket to this year's pantomime at the Marlowe Arena, Canterbury, tell the NHS in no more than 100 words why you are nominating your pharmacy – as well as what the name of this year's Marlowe panto is. Write to: Your Health, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent, John Wilson Business Park, Reeves Way, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 3DD. Please include the name of the pharmacy, your name, address, telephone number and email address. Nomination forms are also available to complete online at www.yourhealthcheck.nhs.uk.

Closing date is December 20 and a panel of judges will choose the winner. The name will be available online and in the next edition of Your Health magazine.

Hayley Eversfield,
NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent

Generations failed by public servants

Public health, like public protec-

tion, public transport – anything that requires service providers' dedication to faithful duty, considering they are taxpayer funded or subsidised, instead have assiduously denied us basic universal appropriate services.

For generations they have failed us with impunity having flouted due diligence and best practice.

From my own efforts to "engage" I am certain the responsibility lies with mismanagement.

I was misled by semantics, PR and witnessed wilful twisting of statutory legislation to drop standards and cut essential infrastructure and staff – for example axing A&E with the blessing of GPs involved in replacing Queen Mary's Sidcup A&E with inferior urgent care.

The undeserved status, terms and conditions for such culprits' misuse, abuse and exploitation of the public trust is rewarded by personal profit and political gain even though it is a government pyramid that has vandalised the NHS, intent on fully exploiting revenue generation (best described by Rupert Thurgood's letter about TV Licensing threats, wanting to fly easyJet but paying extra to BA for nothing).

I found Alison Barnett ineffective at Bexley Care Trust, so I am not surprised that in common with health professionals, train operators in our region, the wrong "directors" are making disastrous decisions that impact adversely on us not them.

I remember asking the GP head of the local executive committee and NHS trust members more than ten years ago to tackle poor nutritional values and harmful additives in mucked-up processed food either by authorising us to contact food manufacturers and supermarkets or doing it through GPs/public health. I was rudely told that was for government to do.

In my family we are prone to asthma, diabetes, heart disease, eczema and blindness through our compromised immune systems that react with inflammatory chronic conditions. None of this was ever acknowledged nor did I get any monitoring or support even when my health suffered.

Like Ian MacMillan's blog on divorce in 1980s, I have learned to ask the right questions and ended up learning that only a carotid artery scan can detect that the heart is struggling with blocked arteries.

Blood tests cannot, yet how many lipid clinics and artery scanners are there for the population?

My introduction to the caring public health and GPs of Bexley, who were then as now supposed to work in partnership with local councils was eye-watering.

It is my opinion that partnership whether with police or any of the above named is a paper exercise of targets and unrealistic wish-lists that are rarely if ever met but get ticked anyway.

Human fallibility at its worst resides in the management committees and the willing 'yes' persons further down the pyramid.

I won an award for a disease prevention, health-enhancing programme which would have trained up all kinds of health professionals from physios, occupational therapists, nurses and doctors to carry out group consultations on community allotments/parkland walking tracks complete with on-site halls and kitchens to provide nutritious meals to patients during the day.

Children, students, the Prince's Trust, Probation Service all wanted to get involved but were blocked and we were vilified by the not-for-value PCT, council leader, his underlings and unhelpful GPs who responded to my lobbying by saying they had better things to do, or offered us only congratulations but no positive action.

Without the genuine backing and goodwill of these gatekeepers we got nowhere. Several older, active and generous supporters from that time have died, disillusioned and saddened by the hostility of MPs, politicians and their henchmen.

Eighty per cent NHS funding would be better left as individual untaxed health allowance or at least distributed back to adults from tax paid.

I know my family would not waste our medical/health allowances and that we would get better choices and options.

Anyone who did waste their allowance would not get extra.

Rita Crootendorst,
campaigner for affordable living



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Hidden gem offers taste of something different

■ The Hooten on the Hill

THE Hooten on the Hill, in Willesborough, is a family-run pub which offers a friendly atmosphere, and has done for the past decade.

The pub is one of the hidden gems of the area. Situated just outside the town, it is popular with those who want to experience something slightly different.

Food is of an excellent standard, with popular dishes including Mexican fajitas and other home-cooked delights.

Mexican and traditional British cuisine is the house speciality, with the knowledgeable staff able to cope with most requests from customers. A daily specials board is constantly changing, to reflect the innovative creations of the kitchen staff and the seasons.

The large garden has been used for beer festivals, and the pub has a wide selection of ales and lagers. Deals for diners are always there, with a three-course meal available for £15, and two-for-one offers.

The Sunday carvery has become justly renowned for its excellence and value for money, with up to five different roast meats.

Other offers include Fosters lager for £2.50 a pint, or £7 for a jug – other drink promotions are also very popular with regulars.

The pub is known for its popular golf society and new members are always welcome.



Live music is held every Sunday with poker nights currently on a Tuesday, although this will change to a Monday in the new year.

The Hooten on the Hill, Silverhill Rd, Willesborough, Ashford TN24 0NY. Telephone 01233 662226.
www.hootenonthehill.co.uk

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Jail for husband who pushed his wife onto sofa

WHEN Jason Apps pushed his wife onto a sofa after he discovered she'd found another man it resulted in prison.

Normally such a minor assault would not end with a jail sentence but Apps, 41, had hurt his wife before when he threw a vase at her.

He was on a suspended sentence and Sittingbourne Magistrates felt they had no alternative.

The court heard Apps and his partner were living an uneasy truce in the same house in Grovehurst Avenue, Kemsley.

He was living upstairs and she lived downstairs, only communicating by text.

James Nichols, prosecuting, said Apps came down and saw his wife was talking about her new love on Facebook. He pushed her away onto the sofa and she complained to police.

He admitted assaulting her.

During interviews with police, Apps said he was smoking 30 cannabis joints a day because it helped him with his agoraphobia. He was in breach of a suspended sentence for possessing dope and one for the previous assault.

Geoff Playford, defending, said: "After 10 years his partner said she'd found another man and was intending to leave him. It was a very minor assault and shouldn't have attracted a custodial sentence. He doesn't live in an ideal situation because it attracts a high level of friction."

Chairman of the bench Colin Drake said magistrates had no alternative but to send him to jail for 105 days.

Illegal driver more than doubled the speed limit

■ BY IAN READ

AMAZED traffic cops chased Ryan Boswell at speeds of up to 80mph through Boughton and Faversham, a court was told.

Boswell, 26, drove through a red light at Brenley Corner, narrowly missing an oncoming car, and accelerated as he tried to throw police off his trail. He was finally stopped on the outskirts of town.

The defendant, of Priory Place, Faversham, admitted dangerous driving, failing to stop when requested by a constable, and having no insurance or driving licence at Sittingbourne Magistrates Court.

James Nichols, prosecuting, said Boswell's Frontera 4x4 was spotted travelling at speed in Courtenay Road, Dunkirk.

As it drove down the road it clipped the kerb twice and officers sped off in pursuit.

He said: "As it approached the A2 slip road the officers put on sirens and flashed their main beam but it didn't stop."

"As it approached the roundabout at Brenley Corner it drove through a red light, causing a car coming through a green light to brake sharply. As it approached Faversham it was doing 80mph in a 30mph zone."

He was finally stopped at Hilton Close.

Boswell, who was under the drink drive limit,

Father of four 'panicked' when he saw police



HIGH SPEED CHASE: Police put on their sirens and flashed their lights at Ryan Boswell, who drove through a red light and reached speeds of up to 80mph in a 30mph zone in his desperate attempt to avoid capture

told police he only drove because a lady friend was unfit and it wasn't his car.

The father of four defended himself.

He said: "I wanted to get home to my children. I made the wrong decision to help somebody and I panicked when I saw police. I'm sorry for putting other people in danger. I could have harmed somebody."

Boswell was given a 90 day prison sentence suspended for a year, 200 hours community work and was also banned from driving for 18 months.

Chairman of the bench Colin Drake said: "You were a risk to the public. You disregarded an officer of the law and ran a red light nearly causing a collision."

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GLUED TO OUR SETS: Talked about TV this year has been (from above, clockwise) *Mad Men*; the Three Leaders' Debate; Facebook movie, *The Social Network*; Ann Widdecombe on *Strictly Come Dancing*; and the much-anticipated *Tron Legacy*

A year to remember...

We look at the entertainment highlights, and lowlights, that made up 2010

IT'S been a funny old year.

A TV dietician learnt to faint on cue and Anne Widdecombe started to find herself liked by the general public.

In May, it seemed for a while after the general election that the country was in some kind of strange limbo.

For 48 hours no-one knew quite who the Liberal Democrats would side with and the media went into a state of speculative frenzy.

UKIP leader Nigel Farage found it all too much and even had an election day plane crash, but very soon it was back to some kind of normality and Britain faced up to the cuts and the recession.

Politics did give us the TV event of the year with the three leader's debates, though.

If the hype after debate one on ITV was to be believed, the Second Coming had taken place in the form of Nick Clegg.

On reflection, it's funny how things change so fast.

On the internet Twitter continued to thrive. The website is so much more than many first thought, and comes into its own when Prime Ministers insult northern pensioners, for example.

The site undoubtedly now helps shape public opinion.

As well as being highly amusing, Bigot-gate, guest starring Rochdale's Gillian Duffy, gave us one of the most unforgettable images of the year: Gordon Brown in a radio studio with his head in his hands, as he finally realised that, for him at least, the game was up.

For me, the TV show of the year was *Mad Men*, which deservedly won big at the awards ceremonies across the pond.

The drama set in a 1960s New York advertising agency may not sound thrilling but if you haven't acquainted yourself with this show then indulge yourself. If it's not the classiest show I've seen on TV then I couldn't tell you what is.

On BBC Two, *The Trip* breathed a bit of life into Steve Coogan's career. A bit repetitive maybe, but never has anyone had so much fun watching two middle-aged men bitch at each other over dinner doing impressions of Michael Caine.

Doctor Who welcomed Matt Smith into the role, but fans remain sceptical after the phenomenally successful David Tennant era.

A decent Christmas special is needed to con-

vince the public Smith's really the man for the T.A.R.D.I.S.

Matters Whovian were not helped when the Daleks were given a camp makeover, decked out with bigger skirts and bright colours. It was more a case of "DOES MY BUM LOOK BIG IN THIS?" than "EXTERMINATE!"

Much better from the Beeb was *Sherlock*, with the brilliantly named Benedict Cumberbatch as the super sleuth.

The show was a marvellous take on Holmes, and far better than Guy Richie's so-so film adaptation.

Of course none of us should ever forget Phil Mitchell's unlikely crack habit in *EastEnders*.

Watching a grizzled angry man rifle through a rubbish bin in search of more drugs has never been so gripping.

The XX deservedly scooped the Mercury music prize with their moody gothic rock and Stevie Wonder showed the hipsters how to really do it at Glastonbury with a storming set.

Warpaint injected a fresh wave of sexy, female angst into rock, as part of tripped-out grunge revival of sorts and the various X Factor rejects and winners from past years scored big hits despite releasing songs that were purely piffle, with Jedward chief culprits.

The show has now become a self-fulfilling prophecy, with the losers and the winner top ten fixtures year round, and the Cowell's masterplan complete.

Next stop America for the X Factor juggernaut and Cheryl Cole, who in 2010 really

cemented herself as the nation's sweetheart.

The year saw another glut of comic book movies hit the big screen but none were really too great.

Pick of the bunch was *Iron Man II*, but that did nothing that the first *Iron Man* hadn't done a lot better already.

Toy Story 3 was a winner though, and proved that Pixar can still sprinkle their magic on the industry.

The year previously James Cameron's *Avatar* proved 3D is here to stay and in 2010 a possibly jealous George Lucas announced that he was going to milk his cash cow once more and release his *Star Wars* films in 3D. Even die-hard fans groaned.

The best all-out blockbuster surely came from Christopher Nolan.

Inception was bold, smart and brimming with ideas and featured a fine performance from Leonard Di Caprio. OK, so many, me included, had to re-examine the plot after leaving their seats, but there's nothing wrong with having your mind blown once in a blue moon.

Unsurprisingly the *Harry Potter* film series continued, and many Muggles proclaimed it best of the films so far.

The Social Network was a surprise, however. A film about the origin of Facebook had me gripped and is one to see on DVD next year.

We end the year with *Tron Legacy* upon us. Early reviews have been good and if nothing else, it should be a true visual treat.

I end, regrettably, on a sombre note.

The Government's cuts will continue to make news in 2011 and many will hit home in the arts world in the near future.

Make no mistake, now is the time to get out and support your arts venues or you may find that your local theatre, gallery, cinema or arts group simply ceases to be.

Times are tough, but try and put some pounds by for a ticket or two if you can.

Happy Christmas... and stay entertained!



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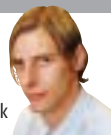
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PROFESSOR GREEN

Monday, December 20, Onyx Nightclub, Folkestone



MOBO award-winning rapper Professor Green heads up a night of dance, R'n'B and urban music at Onyx.

Professor Green's career has hit dizzy heights this year with massive chart success with the Inxs-sampling hit 'I Need You Tonight', which led to him teaming up with Lily Allen for Just Be Good To Green.

He's also worked with Mark Ronson, Tinchy Strider, Chipmunk, Emile Sande and Labrinth, and scored hits with songs Monster and Jungle.

The night features two exclusive shows. It all starts at 6pm with an under 18's event where Professor Green will

headline a line up including Gracious K, Funky Dee and local talent, the artists Breeding Sequence and Jack Lumber.

At 10pm, it's a party for the over 18's when After Party kicks off with another exclusive performance from the man himself with a local support line up including Altered Mind State.

Tickets for the first show are £8 in advance or £10 on the door, and then £5 in advance or £7 on the door for the second show and are available from Onyx's website at www.onyxnightclub.co.uk.

Alternatively call the club on 01303 252200.



THE RED HERRINGS

Saturday, December 18, The Salvation Army Hall, Portland Road, Hythe



THE fabulous Red Herrings will be making a long awaited return to Hythe for a Christmas show.

The Christmas with the Red Herrings concert will put you in the festive mood, as the talented youngsters play a variety of music.

All the members of the band attended either the Harvey Grammar or the Folkestone School for Girls prior to entering university.

Fred Smith, who plays bass in the band, said: "We really are looking forward to getting back together again. The last time we

played at the Salvation Army, it was a sell out, and the venue itself is both warm, inviting and acoustically good."

Richard Carroll, organiser, said: "These young people are to be admired, their musicality is outstanding and their easy listening jazz is a joy to listen too. I would invite anyone who would like their children to take up music to bring them along, they will be inspired."

The band will play at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 for adults and £1 for children.

Call the box office on 01303 268354 to get yours.

ALADDIN

Until January 3, Granville Theatre, Ramsgate



WATCH out for the evil Abanazzar and the mischevious Genie of the Lamp in a re-telling of the classic family pantomime in Ramsgate.

Pantomime is an ideal opportunity to introduce children to the delights of live theatre and for adults to recall childhood memories of trips to Pantoland.

The well-known and much-loved tale is a family favourite and once again the cast at the Granville Theatre will give it their own special treatment.

Aladdin is a boy whose mother is a simple poor washer woman known as Widow Twankey.

They live a simple life in the kingdom along with Wishee Washee their assistant, but when Aladdin falls in love with Princess Badroubadour, the emporer's daughter and a magic lamp is discovered the adventure really begins.

This year's production will feature many colourful scenes, spectacular effects, live music and dancing.

The cast this year is a fantastic mix of local talent and visiting professional performers.

Tickets are priced £11 to £15, concessions available. Group deals are available.

Call 01843 591750 to book or visit the website at www.granvilletheatre.com. All times and performance dates are also on the site.



BAD MANNERS

Wednesday, December 15, Quarterhouse, Folkestone



YOU may bust a blood vessel witnessing Bad Manners in action.

The famed two tone ska act, fronted by the indomitable singer Buster Bloodvessel, will be stomping on stage at the Quarterhouse.

They'll be rattling through their famous hits Lip Up Fatty, Special Brew, Can Can, My Girl Lollipop, Just a Feeling and many more.

The band were chart regulars in the 80s and courted controversy on many occasions with their raucous antics on stage and off. They were known for brash performances and legendary live shows and this show will have you skanking until you can skank no more.

The band are always well-supported in the area due to Buster Bloodvessel's ties with Margate and performances at the Lounge on the Farm festival near Canterbury.

Support on the night comes from Max Splodge, hero of Splodgenessabounds and Two Pints Of Lager And A Packet Of Crisps fame, alongside a local ska band and some bonafide solid ska selectors filling in the gaps.

Tickets are £16 each. Buy online at www.quarterhouse.co.uk or by calling 01303 858500.



CHASE AND STATUS

Friday, December 17, Brake Hall, East Hill, Ashford



THE versatile electronic producers have supported The Prodigy and played at festivals including Glastonbury and V this year.

The drum and bass stars, whose real names are Saul Milton and Will Kennard, have been booked by Intimacy Promotions to play a 90-minute set, which will also feature MC Rage.

Organiser Joshua Heyburn said: "They will be playing everything that everyone knows as well as tracks from their new album which will be out soon. It's going to be huge."

Chase & Status' first album went to number two in the UK dance album charts and was voted the best album at the 2009 Drum and Bass awards.

The duo's recent tracks, End Credits featuring Plan B and Let You Go featuring Mali, did well in the singles chart.

Their support acts in Ashford will include electronic newcomers You And What Army, local dubstep DJ Mr Strong and Kent electronic pop rock band LightsGoBlue, now on tour in the United States with Enter Shikari. Doors are open from 8pm until 11pm, over 14s only. Tickets are £15 and available from HMV stores in Ashford, Canterbury, Folkestone and Maidstone. Or book online at www.seetickets.com or www.hmv.com.



Reader Holidays

KOS 51

Winter Warmer Party

Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight - Over 40s only

**Friday, January 14, 2011**

Our Winter Warmer Party - for over 40s only - is at Bembridge Coast, Warner's luxury hotel on the Isle of Wight. Enjoy quality accommodation, good food, live nightly entertainment and a Free Bar.

INCLUDES: Free Bar 3.30pm to 11pm Friday and 12noon to 11pm Saturday (& Sunday) - house beers, spirits & mixers, wine by the glass • 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts • Entertainment every night • En-suite Ambassador room with TV, tea/coffee tray - upgrades available • Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna • Return Car Ferry

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Mamma Mia Party

Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight - Over 50s only

**Friday, February 25, 2011**

Join us for a party where the name of the game is fun. We're rekindling the 70s & 80s when Abba's songs were on everyone's lips.

PRICE INCLUDES: FREE drinks from 3.30pm to 11pm Friday, 12noon to 11pm Saturday & Sunday. Includes house beers & spirits, house wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee • Dinners & Breakfasts • Mamma Mia movie screening • Abba Tribute Band • Variety entertainment • En-suite Ambassador room with TV, tea/coffee tray - upgrades available • Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna • Return Car Ferry

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Mamma Mia Party

Warner Bodelwyddan Castle, North Wales - Over 50s only

**Friday, March 25, 2011**

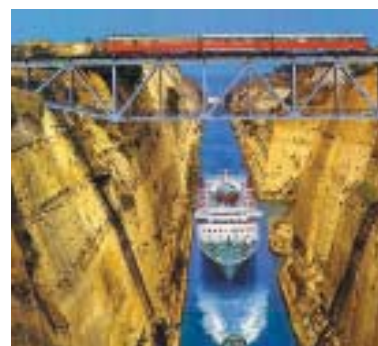
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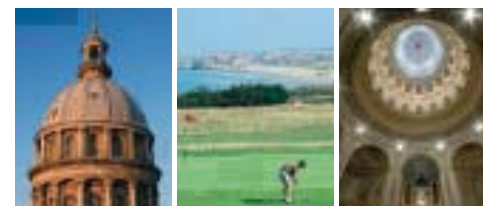
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Boulogne sur Mer

For more information about events in Boulogne and the area: tourisme@agglo-boulonnais.fr www.tourisme-boulonnais.com

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*T&Cs: Tickets normally cost £13 on the door – saving £14. Offer expires 13 January 2011. Tickets must be booked in advance. Saving indicated based on door rate. For more information visit www.thefranceshow.com. Calls cost 10p per minute from BT landlines, mobile networks may vary.

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yourmusic

Xmas presents for music lovers



A TOP TOUCH: The Blue Mickey records a rich, crisp sound ideal for making demos

I'll admit that when I first took the Blue Mikey out of its box and plugged it into my iPod touch, I was dubious.

I mean, how good can a microphone you plug into an iPod dock really be?

I was pleasantly surprised.

For a start, it's small and sturdy with a solid hinge that allows it to be best positioned to record whatever it is you need to record.

And the sound it captures is both rich and crisp when you consider the mic's compact size.

The Mikey plus iPod combo turns the already-versatile Touch into the perfect field-recording tool. For journalists wishing to record an interview it's fast and simple, but the recording quality is also good enough for podcasts and perhaps even radio.

With this in mind, the Blue FiRe recording software (downloadable from the App Store) is the way to go.

This free app, written specially to work with the Mikey, is optimised to get the best out of the minuscule microphone and it really does work.

But voice recording is all very well... what about a real challenge?

I'm in a folk band called Los Salvadores, and often at band practice we've used the terrible microphones on our mobiles to record ideas, simply as a memory aid. This works to an extent, as long as all you're trying to capture is a quick snatch of singing or a guitar line here and there. Add in much more and it quickly becomes the sonic equivalent of a muddy puddle.

But recording whole songs with the whole six-piece band would be a powerful writing tool. Could the Mikey be the answer to providing instant reference demos? Could a mic this small really record six instruments with enough clarity and separation to draw meaningful conclusions about a track?

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

I decided to put the mic to the ultimate test, and set up the Mikey-equipped Touch at a practice. I say set up... I launched Blue FiRe, pressed record and left it on a stool.

I was pleasantly surprised by the result. Forget phone microphones, the Mikey is in a different league. I'm not saying you can forgo full-blown studio set-ups quite yet, but if you are a musician needing a fast and convenient audio reference tool, you can do a lot worse (and pay a lot more) than this second-gen Mikey.

And the fun doesn't stop there. Blue added a line input for recording guitars, and the Blue FiRe app includes a number of export options, so you can record a track and send it to a web server to be downloaded and edited in the future.

It's conceivable that you and a number of Mikey-equipped mates could indulge in some pretty high quality online collaborations using nothing more than the plug-in mics and basic editing software.

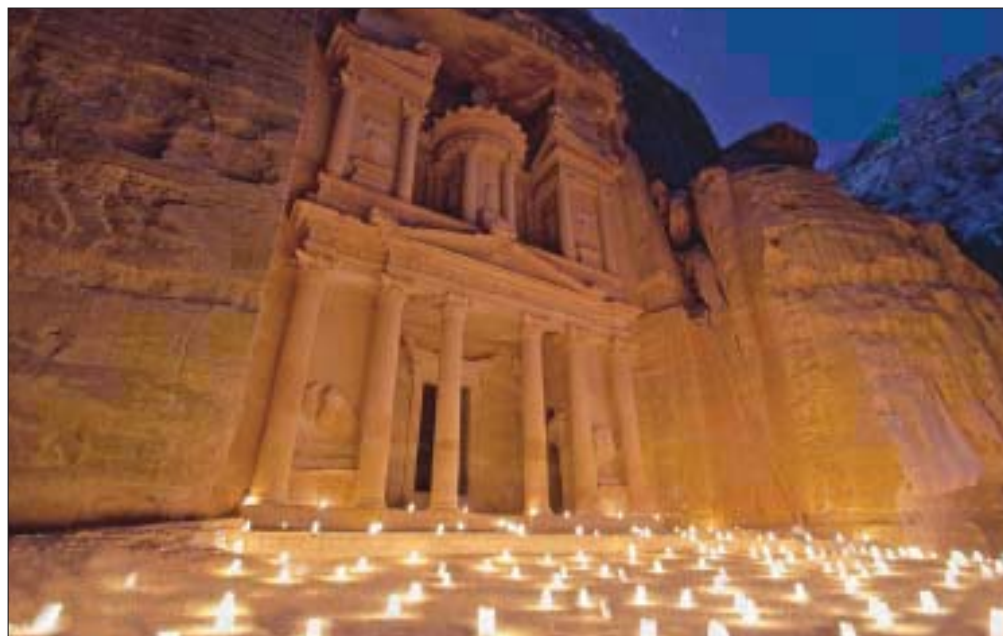
You can get your hands on a Blue Mikey for £59.99 from www.amazon.com.

Revo Ikon DAB, DAB+ and Internet Radio with touch screen and iPod Dock, £279 from Marks & Spencer

A multi-format digital radio that combines a full colour 3.5" touch-screen, icon-driven user interface, multi-standard radio capabilities and iPod and iPhone docking.

Morphie Juice Pack Air, £70, from various outlets (pictured)

The juice pack air is a rechargeable external battery concealed inside a protective case for iPhones. It offers the protection of a hard case while providing virtually twice the battery life of the iPhone.



ADVENTURE TRAIL: The Treasury at Petra is well known as the place where the Holy Grail is guarded in Indiana Jones And The Last Crusade.

yourgetaways

Follow in the adventurous footsteps of Hergé's Tintin

■ BY CAROLINE DAVISON

IT'S more than 50 years since Tintin, the cub reporter and cartoon character who has since become one of Belgium's best-loved exports, first set foot in Jordan with his faithful lieutenants Captain Haddock and Snowy the dog.

His adventures there provide the backdrop for a film to be released next year by Steven Spielberg and co-director Peter Jackson.

Of course, Jordan tourist wallahs can hardly believe their luck.

One tour operator, On The Go Tours, has won the backing of Moulinsart (holder of the rights to the Tintin adventures) to start guided adventure tours taking in the Wadi Rum desert, the Dead Sea, the Red Sea and Petra, and I was lucky enough to experience an early taste of what visitors can expect.

The local agent collected us at Jordan's capital, Amman, with a comfy 25-seater coach and a cool box – a wonderful forethought in this sweltering country.

Our first port of call was the Dead Sea, and en route we spotted the twinkling city lights of Jerusalem.

Our four-star hotel overlooking the beach was clean and spacious with welcoming staff.

Buffet breakfast next morning was such an interesting mix of British, continental and Jordanian fare that I expected to become the first person to sink in the sea's salty water.

Floating in the Dead Sea is a surreal experience. It's so salty that

FACT FILE: JORDAN

Time difference	+ two hours (GMT)
Capital	Amman
Language	Arabic
Population	6,407,000
Currency	Jordanian dinar
Religion	Islam

Caroline Davison was a guest of On The Go Tours which offers holidays to Jordan from six to 11 days, including the dedicated Tintin tour of Jordan and the Rose City. Prices for the Tintin tour from February 2011 start at £2,029. Some tours are dedicated family tours, and some include a Tintinologist. Reservations: 020 7371 1113 and www.onthegotours.com.



cuts sting like fury on entry into the water, but once you lie back and shut your eyes it's glorious.

I washed back to the shore like flotsam after keeping my eyes shut for a bit too long – which gave me an incentive to cover myself in Dead Sea mud, provided free on the beach.

We then headed towards our next stop – Little Petra. Dropped off in the hills a few miles from the hotel, we found Arabian horses waiting to transport us the final distance. Guides led us along the Al Hasanat path and two hours later we stopped for a glass of sweet black tea which replenished our energy levels to complete the journey to the hotel.

The next day it was off to the Unesco heritage site of Petra – the Rose City. Featured in the Tintin story Red Sea Sharks, it's well known as the place where the Holy Grail is

guarded in Spielberg's Indiana Jones And The Last Crusade.

After walking just over a mile we emerged between the rock faces to the sight of the Treasury, Petra's most elaborate ruin which is hewn into a sandstone cliff. Wadi Rum didn't disappoint. Dropped off at the edge of the desert, we boarded a Jeep to get into the heart of the landscape, passing sand dunes and camel herders. The area is peaceful, relaxing and breathtakingly beautiful.

The full Tintin tour also includes two days at the Red Sea, with a boat trip to the Pharaon Islands and the chance of snorkelling. There's also a free day to relax before transferring to Amman for the journey home.

No doubt the Spielberg film will be wonderful – but it won't match the thrill of retracing Tintin's route across Jordan.

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Women Seeking

KIND professional clean shaven gent, sought by petite, attractive lady, 51 for discreet daytime relationship. West Sussex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382982 ☞

ATTRACTIVE intelligent blonde, full of life, seeks tall, good looking, well built male for uncomplicated fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355275 ☞

SHY curvy blonde, 21, likes R&B, clubbing, meals outin, seeks dark, good looking, slim guy who knows how to press the right buttons. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355273 ☞

CURVY blue eyed brunette, 23, fun loving and bubbly, likes well nights out but would prefer cosy evenings in with a special fun loving older male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355271 ☞

PETITE curvy female, witty and fun, always on the go, many interests WLTm intelligent outgoing male for good times. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355269 ☞

CURVY strawberry blonde, 26, baby blue eyes, seeks fun loving tactile guy for friendship, hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355245 ☞

BEAUTIFUL slim brunette, big brown eyes, 39, kind and gentle nature, seeks similar kind male for quality/fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355243 ☞

ATTRACTIVE female 38, blue eyes, blonde hair, WLTm nice looking slim/well built man to share life, love and special times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355241 ☞

CURVY blue eyed blonde, many interests, seeks well built male who's looking for an uncomplicated relationship with a real woman. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355239 ☞

HAPPY attractive, versatile black female, 37, 5ft 7ins, slim, likes reading, music, nature, seeks N/S, genuine gent, 35-48 to share life, laughter. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333815

ATTRACTIVE black lady, 5ft 6ins, black hair, slim, kissable lips, likes walks, horse riding, go karts, seeks professional white male, 35-45, athletic, 5ft 11ins-6ft. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353897

BLACK female, likes meals out, theatre, seeks solvent white male, 30-47 for genuine relationship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382910

LADY 50, West Sussex, seeks generous romantic for discreet, special daytime fun, no strings. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382870

BEAUTIFUL slim brunette, will try anything once, varied interests, seeks laid back male for friendship, good conversations and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353679 ☞

REAL party girl, blonde, 34, attractive and funny, looking for similar guy who also knows how to have a good time. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353663 ☞

OUTGOING blonde, 29, big blue eyes, great personality, fun to be with, WLTm intelligent mature male for a loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353661 ☞

VERY attractive happy go lucky female, 37, long dark hair, lovely smile, seeks cool exciting guy to enjoy life to the full with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353659 ☞

DISCO queen, fun loving, black, attractive serene female, 37, slim, adores music, theatre, reading, nature, seeks genuine, caring gent, 36-49, N/S. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333815

VERY pretty funny slim brunette, 39, fit and active, seeks good looking guy for fun romance and more. A.C.A. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354653 ☞

TALL blue eyed blonde, curvy and fun, loves dancing, seeks tall well built guy to share happy times and see what the future brings. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354651 ☞

ROCKEFELLER 38, medium build, fair, funny, bubbly, likes conversation, seeks male for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353359

TALL female, medium build, bubbly, chatty, likes nights in, cooking, days out, seeks interesting male for friendship, maybe more. Worthing. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353357 ☞

VICKY attractive, kind, down to earth, black British, likes travel, writing, reading, cooking, socialising, seeks generous, good man who is family orientated. Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353033

YOUNG black female, likes meals out, theatre, seeks solvent white male, 30-47 for genuine relationship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382706

VOLUPTUOUS bubbly female with red hair, 32, outgoing and fun, seeks genuine, down to earth male to enjoy life and love with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354649 ☞

BEAUTIFUL slim blonde 38, loving, sensual and a hopeless romantic, looking for love with similar tactile male to be her best mate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354647 ☞

PETITE curvy cuddly blonde, hazel eyes, much love to give, seeks romantic, tactile male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354626 ☞

SMALL attractive black haired female, 23, WLTm someone special for a happy loving future together. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354621 ☞

MISCHIEVOUS female, feminine, attractive, cultured, likes arts, music, seeks strong minded male for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354619 ☞

BEAUTIFUL slim, Oriental babe, 22, seeks older, generous guy 65 plus who knows how to pamper. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 34854

PRETTY happy go lucky lady, no ties, seeks tall, slim, attractive guy with big heart as well as personality for fun friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352675 ☞

QUIET smart, brown eyed lady, likes meals out and dancing, WLTm laidback mature man to share laughter/TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352673 ☞

CURVY brunette, loving but a bit of a dreamer looking to share special times together with likeminded easygoing male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352671 ☞

ATTRACTIVE fun, friendly blonde, seeks fun guy. Sutton. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382502

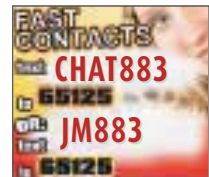
TINY attractive fun loving lady, likes to cook romantic meals, music and dancing, WLTm medium built likeminded male for loving LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352119 ☞

ADORABLE beauty, curvy, caring, down to earth, trained lawyer, seeks good man for friendship, companionship, maybe more. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351337

LOVELY green eyed brunette likes long romantic walks, seeks tall outgoing male with GSOH to light up her life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351343 ☞

TALL slim blonde, 46, loves to travel looking for someone genuine and honest to share cosy evenings in with a bottle of wine, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351341 ☞

DOWN to earth, slim brunette, curves in all the right places, looking for easygoing, fun guy for some relaxed fun times. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353415 ☞



LIVELY curvy blue eyed blonde, very active, seeks hunky energetic, likeminded guy with to get to know and hang out with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354615 ☞

OUTGOING blonde bombshell, 44, gorgeous green eyes, seeks caring male who is also looking for lots of fun and TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353655 ☞

CURVY young looking widow loves dancing, nights out, but would prefer cosy nights in with that special male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353483 ☞

WARM hearted female, curves in all the right places, new to area, seeks intelligent male to share interests, friendship and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353419 ☞

LOVELY lady, 48, beautiful curves, many interests, just wants to meet honest decent guy and make him happy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353417 ☞

60YR old female, seeks special N/S, no drinking gent, loving and caring for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352553 ☞

BERYL 70 plus, 5ft 6ins, slim, fair hair, green eyes, seeks gent who likes travel, theatre, sports, meals out. Hampshire. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353165 ☞

FEMALE 60's, likes music, reading, Grandchildren, WLTm honest, trustworthy gent 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. Portsmouth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352853 ☞

CUDDLY bubbly female, 49, lovely personality, many interests WLTm nice man with similar interests for friendship first. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353453 ☞

LEGGY brunette, young 50's, easygoing looking for excitement, likes nature, animals, nights out, seeks similar tall, solvent male for fun and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353421 ☞

SLIM blue eyed brunette, 48, loving and kind, hopeless romantic, likes pubs, nights in/out seeks similar romantic male to get to know. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353461 ☞

ROSEMARY 62, caring Christian, professional, divorced, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382496

GORGEOUS tall brunette, blue eyes, many fun interests looking for someone special to enjoy fun/new adventures with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352713 ☞

ELEGANT stylish blonde widow, young 59, very good company, looking for attractive, cultured, older male to share interests, good conversation and who knows. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353455 ☞

Men Seeking

LOVELY warm 60 plus lady sought for special friendship with late 50's male, full heart, empty wallet, GSOH. Surrey/Sussex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383192 ☞

TOY boy 20's, seeks Mrs Claus for a fantastic Christmas full of lust and passion. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354925 ☞

YOUNG good looking, medium build male, mid 30's, seeks mature, older female for fun and passionate evenings in this cold weather. London/Herts. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354877

GRAHAM 55, 5ft 11ins, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, N/S, friendly, reliable, genuine, GSOH, easygoing, honest, tactile, likes most things, seeks attractive, slim-medium, N/S female, 45-55. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383156 ☞

FUN loving guy 50, 5ft 10ins, seeks outgoing, feminine, mature female 45-60. TLC. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354803

SINGLE professional Indian male, N/S, attractive, 5ft 7ins, medium build, vegetarian, 50, young outlook, seeks white female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354781 ☞

If you are over 50, not over the hill, naughty man over 55 who will be a challenge awaits your call. Waterloo/iville. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355105

MALE 55, passionate, lots of TLC to give adventurous, broadminded lady looking for soul mate. Hampshire. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354851

50'S and still sexy, looking for a pleasant, passionate man who will hit the right buttons. Me 55, just call. Portsmouth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354849

SIMPLY fabulous funky redhead, 39, down to earth, fit and active, seeks laid back, passionate guy to share red wine, good conversation, maybe more. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352711 ☞

EXOTIC curvy female, excellent cook, fit and active seeking mature white male to pamper and be looked after in return. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352705 ☞

ATTRACTIVE blue eyed blonde, 41, no ties, seeks someone easygoing and fun who can make life a bit more interesting. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352703 ☞

PETITE blonde, 39, seeks tall genuine fun to be with male to be happy and let her hair down with. A.C.A. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352677 ☞

OLD fashioned girl, 49, fun, friendly, seeks mature male for fun times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382192

KAREN 51, smoker, many interests, seeks country loving guy, 35-45 who is fun, loving and caring. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382050 ☞

LYN young 50yr old lady, divorced, attractive, size 16, black hair, green eyes, no ties, dog, likes walks, meals out, nights in, socialising, seeks gent, 40-55. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350023

STEVE 42, medium build, genuine, seeks nice female for love and family life. Basingstoke. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355193 ☞

DAVE 60, 5ft 11ins, caring, romantic, seeks female, 40 plus, size 14-16 to chill out for fun times. Portsmouth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354789 ☞

GOOD times ahead with 50's sensible guy, GSOH, medium build, likes all things cultural, travel, seeks lady with similar interests for friendship, maybe more. NW London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383024 ☞

YOUNG 60yr old Bexhill man, likes cats, travel, cooking, seeks genuine female, looks unimportant it what's inside, 54-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383016

TALL attractive, intelligent male, 46, seeks funny, sexy, female lower for passionate meetings. S Wits. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354685 ☞

MICHAEL 44, 5ft 10ins, medium build, seeks naughty female for fun and lots more, Reigate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354133 ☞

ATTRACTIVE blond, blue eyed male, 47, HIV positive, genuine, sincere, GSOH, OHAC, seeks warm, Oriental/black/Asian female. Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354749

YOUNG looking 60yr old guy, 5ft 7ins, brown hair/eyes, likes lunches out, seeks slim-medium build female for friendship only. Crawley. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354713 ☞

ANOTHER Christmas that's not enjoyable? Sincere gent, 49, seeks lady, 35-45 to celebrate, exchange presents, party and shop till we drop. Think about it, its time to change. Lindfield. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383122 ☞

MARK single dad, likes stock cars, Irish/Italian, down to earth, seeks petite female, any age/looks. Eastbourne. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382806

DAVID 51, divorced, shy, 5ft 7ins, seeks female for friendship, 45 plus. Worthing. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382784 ☞

MALE seeks slim female, 38-48 with varied interests. S London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353017

SLIM 52yr old male, 5ft 9ins, N/S, lots of love to give, seeks similar aged female to share life together. Crawley. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352865 ☞

CHRIS 49, own home, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Portsmouth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353977

MALE youthful 60's, slim, N/S, mild OCD, likes most things, seeks similar attractive, kind, genuine female for relationship. East Grinstead. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352363

CURVES quest! Tall, slim, artist chap, seeks buxom, voluptuous lady for movie going and popcorn munching. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354431 ☞

PROFESSIONAL male, N/S, moderate drinker, seeks black/Oriental female, 35-43 for LTR. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383058 ☞

HASTINGS male, 46, 5ft 10ins, medium build, blue eyes, fair hair, GSOH, chatty, romantic, caring, likes walks, cycling, sports times, seeks similar female, 23-48 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383050 ☞

MUCH too young to be 57, hard-working, nice guy, slim, 5ft 6ins, smoker, smart/casual, missing female company, likes most things, looking for a fun LTR. Hastings. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383032 ☞

52YR old male, slim, 5ft 9ins, N/S, lots of love, care, attention to give to female of similar age. Crawley. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354211

6FT 2ins black guy, seeks female for no strings fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383028 ☞

NICE guy 52, average build, seeks curvy female, 24-45 for LTR. Wembley. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353355

PROFESSIONAL successful male, 45, 6ft, fit, adventurous, fun loving, romantic, seeks attractive, outgoing female to enjoy the good things in life. Brighton. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353349

51YR old retired chef, 5ft 8ins, Irish/Italian, down to earth, seeks petite female, any age/looks. Eastbourne. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382806

DAVID 51, divorced, shy, 5ft 7ins, seeks female for friendship, 45 plus. Worthing. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382784 ☞

MALE seeks slim female, 38-48 with varied interests. S London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353017

SLIM 52yr old male, 5ft 9ins, N/S, lots of love to give, seeks similar aged female to share life together. Crawley. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352865 ☞

CHRIS 49, own home, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Portsmouth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353977

MALE youthful 60's, slim, N/S, mild OCD, likes most things, seeks similar attractive, kind, genuine female for relationship. East Grinstead. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352363

GENUINE nice guy young 50's, romantic, tactile, solvent, GSOH, likes music, countryside, DIY, car boots, candlelit cuisine, seeks cuddly, attractive lady, Haslemere. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353843

LOCAL Andover male, seeks local Andover female, 30-50 for loving, lasting relationship. N/S with no children. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353787 ☞

MIKE 50, attractive, medium build, easygoing, likes a laugh, seeks female with similar disposition. Sutton. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382882 ☞

TALL white guy, brown hair/eyes, 49, seeks female with good personality for friendship, maybe more. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354113

BLUE eyed male, 60's, slim, active, 5ft 5ins, solvent, seeks socialising, drives, travel, seeks petite female for LTR. Burgess Hill. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382996 ☞

SLIM white male, 47, young looks, likes cinema, walks, reading, seeks curvy, large female for LTR. Eastbourne. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353889

EASYGOING fun loving guy 6ft 2ins, mousey hair, blue/grey eyes, likes pubs, clubs, walks, motor-bikes, seeks soul mate. Littlehampton. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382948 ☞

ATTRACTIVE blond, blue eyed male, HIV positive, extremely genuine, sincere, GSOH, OHAC, seeks warm, Oriental/Black/Asian female. Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353693

26YR old tall male, dark complexion, handsome, caring, seeks female, 18-40 for kisses, cuddles nights in/out and love. Portsmouth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354131 ☞

MALE seeks female for serious relationship. Stratford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354095 ☞

WHITE male, young looks, new to area, seeks female for fun and friendship, maybe more. Hastings. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382330 ☞

FUNNY chatty 44yr old male, seeks special lady for special times. Cheam. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382534 ☞

GENUINE male, 39, fit, handsome, seeks female, 18-30 for fun, laughs and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352235

Gay Seeking

ATTRACTIVE not scene gay, late 20's, seeks older, solvent gent, 65 plus for mutual fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348543

ATTRACTIVE tall, white hunk, non scene, straight acting, seeks older gent, 65 plus for mutual spilling and pampering. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348543

TERRY seeks younger male for good times. Gosport. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352051 ☞

YOUNG 60yr old male, likes cats, cooking, travel, seeks male, 54-70, CD/TV to share life. Bexhill. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382616 ☞

YOUNG 60yr old male, likes animals, cats, tv, cooking, seeks TV/CD, 50-70 for LTR. Bexhill. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383018

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Enjoy the last in the Narnia series, but it won't be a tearful farewell

■ BY DAMON SMITH

THERE'S action and adventure afoot in the third book of CS Lewis's enchanting Narnia series, published back in the 1950s.

Following on from the daring escapades of Prince Caspian, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* sets sail without the two eldest Pevensie children, Peter (William Moseley) and Susan (Anna Popplewell), and press-gangs some fresh talent to carry the series into the choppy waters of the fourth book, *The Silver Chair*.

Director Michael Apted bows down to the current fad of 3D format but this version of the film barely takes advantage of the eye-popping possibilities.

Most of the cast return with the notable absence of Eddie Izzard as the voice of sword-wielding mouse, Reepicheep.

He's replaced by Simon Pegg, who rouses the cast into action by telling the children: "There is no honour in turning away from adventure."

The film opens with Peter away at university and Susan in America, consigning Lucy (Georgie Henley) and Edmund (Skandar Keynes) to a miserable stay with stuffy cousin, Eustace Scrubb (Will Poulter).

He collects insects and can't think of anything nicer than pinning his relatives to the wall like butterfly specimens.

"Note to self: investigate the legal ramifications of impaling relatives," he writes in his journal.

During a fight between Edmund and Eustace, a painting in the guest bedroom magically transports all three children to Narnia and on to the titular vessel captained by Drinian (Gary Sweet).

Eustace is aghast but Lucy and Edmund settle in quickly as Narnian royalty, reuniting with King Caspian (Ben Barnes) and Reepicheep (Pegg) aboard *The Dawn Treader*.

It transpires that Caspian is on a quest to locate the swords of seven lost noblemen and



WAVE OF 3D: There's plenty of action and adventure in the finale of the Narnia series, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*

the Pevensie children pledge their support, encountering the White Witch (Tilda Swinton) and the majestic lion Aslan (Liam Neeson) along the way.

"Until you lay down the seventh sword, evil has the upper hand," reveals the magician



Coriakin (Bille Brown).

"To defeat the darkness out there, you must defeat the darkness inside yourself," he adds helpfully.

The Voyage of the Dawn Treader is the most crudely constructed of the films, loosely stitch-

ing together the set pieces with comical alterations between Eustace and his courageous cousins.

Inevitably, the new boy discovers the hero within, while Lucy learns valuable lessons about self-confidence and beauty.

Production design is impressive and the script introduces two monsters for the special effects-heavy finale that should delight younger audiences.

Poulter matures from comic relief to would-be hero – he's the central character of the fourth book – while Henley and Keynes make the most of their underwritten roles before they too bid a tearful farewell to their fantastical friends.

Our eyes remain dry.

THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER
Certificate PG 



NOT SO SIMPLE: Nigel Slater's cookery series just leaves us feeling inadequate



YOUR TV REVIEW

NIGEL SLATER'S SIMPLE SUPPERS: Channel 4, 9pm, Monday

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

THE second series of Nigel Slater's *Simple Suppers* came to an end last week. The programme owes much to his namesake Nigella Lawson. The show is full of the same slow panning shots over steaming food that has been lovingly caressed onto the dinner plate by its creator.

Mr Slater also delivers his pieces to camera with a cheeky glint in his eye and narration that suggests cooking is as sexy as Fenella Fielding smoking on the chaise longue in *Carry on Screaming*.

This whole programme has touched a raw nerve with me. Not only do we have to put up with yet another cooking programme in primetime but it is also totally misleading.

To most of us a simple supper is something like beans on toast or an omelette but this is not the case with Mr Slater.

No he decides to rustle up pork loins in beer or cook alfresco with his home grown chard.

Each of the programmes in the series has some pretentious title like: "Too Good to Waste" or "Unsung Heroes".

In the former episode Nigel suggests all the imaginative things we can do with those unwanted bits and bobs that get forgotten at the back of the fridge or that reside in a dusty cupboard.

The only thing is, to make these old nuggets of potato and crusty cheese taste good Nigel, unlike the rest of us, has a whole host of weird and wonderful ingredients at his disposal.

Let's face it, a stale old cream cracker tastes great once you do a little caviar on top.

He is also a great advocate of grow

your own too. Throughout the series not only do we get the chance to see Nigel's little green heaven, he also visits mere mortals who have managed to grow a turnip in their acre of home counties hillside.

It may taste nice but it's not an option open to the population who live in flats or whose terrace house has a garden only big enough for an old coal bin and a rotary washing line.

This really is aspiration TV of the worst kind. Don't kid us this is something we can all do. It just makes us feel shameful when we reach for the ready meal on the supermarket shelf or heat up cold tea in the microwave. If Nigel warmed his tea he would grow his own woodland, fell the trees, chop the wood and build a fire just to infuse his brew with that unforgettable charcoal flavour; just in time for the next series.

MOTORS NEWS



Hyundai's downsizer comes with all the toys

HYUNDAI cranks up competition in the mini-MPV sector from November 18 with the launch of its roomy yet compact ix20, priced from £11,595.

The niche was identified by the Honda Jazz, but the trend for downsizing has increased demand and choice and the Hyundai will appeal not just on pricing, but also with its five-year warranty.

Standard features kicking off three trim levels include height-adjustable driver's seat, air con, six airbags plus active head restraints, and six-speaker sound system with MP3/USB input.



Lexus hybrid cuts costs without compromise

LEXUS has announced an attractive entry price of £23,485 for its all-new CT200h executive hatchback hybrid.

With a road tax-exempt 94g/km CO2 emissions, potential average mpg of nearly 70 and a 10 per cent benefit-in-kind company car tax rating plus the upmarket badge, the petrol-electric model should make company car user choosers think twice.

But buyers will need to opt for mid-grade SE-L (£25,200) for the true executive leather seats, with heated front ones.



C3 gets Cherry aid to boost Picasso's sales

IT probably didn't need it, but Citroën's award-winning C3 Picasso MPV (from £12,695) has been updated and is now available with an ultra-low emission 110bhp diesel and six-speed gearbox.

The 90bhp sister diesel is also sold in a Blackcherry special edition (£15,195), with cherry red and black detailing, plus high spec including roof bars, cherry red diamond-tipped alloys, air con, cruise control and USB/Bluetooth connectivity.

All C3 Picasso diesels now escape road tax in year one and the whole range has energy-saving Michelin tyres.



DISTINCTIVE: The almost all-new Saab 9-5 delivers everything you'd expect from the brand – turbocharged generous spec, comfort, acres of space, and traditional design

Saab back from the brink with powerful new twist

ONLY Sweden's Saab – famous for original thinking – could have fabricated a Norse saga involving the brand's near death experience earlier this year.

The former General Motors (GM) brand is fast reviving though, in partnership with Dutch supercar maker Spyker, and tapping into much goodwill in the UK, where it is also celebrating 50 years in the car market.

Leading the revival is the long-awaited Saab 9-5 replacement – the previous car can trace its origins to 1997.

Though based on the classy Vauxhall Insignia during Saab's final years with GM, as much as 70 per cent of the new 9-5 is all our own work, say the Swedes.

The distinctive bodywork is certainly in the great Saab tradition – so, in Abba-speak, you could say the brand is re-Bjorn.

It is priced from £26,695 with a generous standard spec and hi-tech features including aircraft-style head-up display, adaptive lighting and cruise control, adaptive chassis, keyless entry and starting, dual-zone air con; dynamic

ROAD TEST SAAB 9-5

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

parking assistance and all-wheel drive.

The engine line-up is all turbocharged – what did you expect from the turbo master brand? – and includes a 1.6-litre petrol unit that concedes little in performance to the slightly dearer diesel entry model, though fuel consumption is markedly inferior.

The 160PS (157bhp) 2.0-litre TiD Vector SE diesel we tested feels heavy and, like standard versions of the Insignia – not as nimble as you come to expect from BMW and Audi rivals.

But the ride comfort and long-distance cruising ability is impressive, with loads of space for those in the back and a massive boot.

The cabin isn't gaudy or innovative, but just carefully laid out in the Saab way; aficionados like to think Saab dashboards can trace their lineage back to the aviation parent company.

The powertrain and six-speed auto gearbox matches this refinement and the front-end styling won't let you down in the office car park.

I think the designer's hand strayed a little towards the rear of the car, but this opinion started a lively debate whenever I raised it with colleagues, so it's one of those "beauty is in the eye of the beholder" motors.

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**2006/06 RENAULT
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 DIESEL**
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 with grey cloth
£4,495



**2005/05 SAAB 9-3 LIN-
 EAR SPORT 150BHP
 DIESEL 4 DOOR**
 in metallic
 moon dust grey
 with contrasting
 dark grey cloth
£5,995



**2005/05 PLATE
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 HDI S 4 DOOR**
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 6 speed gearbox
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**2003/53 RENAULT
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 contrasting sand
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£5,995



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 with contrasting
 black cloth
£5,995



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 INITIAL 7 SEATER**
 in nightfire
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 sand leather/suede
£8,995



**2001/51 RENAULT
 ESPACE THE RACE
 7 SEATER**
 in star dust
 metallic silver
 with contrasting
 black cloth interior
£3,995



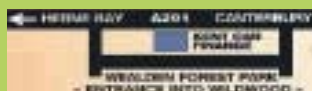
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N REG FORD MONDEO LX 1.9 ESTATE, blue, power steering, e/w, stereo, central locking, s/roof, new mot & taxed**£695**
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Finished in Black Magic Metallic with a Black Velour - Leather interior, 35,111 miles. £13,995

07 Plate Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD vRS 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Black Magic Metallic with a Grey Velour - Leather interior, 57,500 miles. £9,995

05 Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD Ambiente 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Satin Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 47,800 miles. £6,995

03 Plate Skoda Octavia 1.9 TDI Elegance 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Diamond Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 91,200 miles. £3,995

58 Plate Skoda Roomster 1.9 TDI PD 3 5-Dr MPV

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 11,000 miles. £10,795

09 Plate Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 10,700 miles. £9,495

06 Plate Skoda Fabia 2 1.6 16V (105 BHP) 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 27,250 miles. £8,795

58 Plate Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £6,995*

10 Plate Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

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59 Plate Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

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57 Plate Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Flamenco Red Metallic with a Grey Cloth interior, 22,500 miles. £5,995

06 Plate Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Bohemia (75 HP) 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Satin Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 35,200 miles. £5,995

54 Plate Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP (54 BHP) Classic 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 48,500 miles. £3,995*

Other Makes

59 Plate SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi S Emocion 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Red Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 11,300 miles. £13,495

58 Plate Fiat 500 1.3 MultiJet Sport 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Pasodoble Red with a Grey Velour - Leather interior, 27,100 miles. £10,795

51 Plate BMW 3 Series 2.5 325Ci 2-Dr Convertible

Finished in Titanium Silver Metallic with a Grey Leather interior, 44,300 miles. £9,795

55 Plate Peugeot 407 SW 2.0 HDi 136 SE (Luxury)

Finished in Silver Metallic with a Black Leather interior, 44,500 miles. £7,995

2008 Mitsubishi Lancer 1.6 Equippe 4-Door Saloon

Finished in Metallic Gunmetal Grey, Manual, 21,800 miles. was £7,995* **Now £6,995***

Toyota Yaris 1.3 VVT-i T3 5-Dr

Finished in Eclipse Black Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 32,500 miles. £5,995

56 Plate Honda Jazz 1.4i-DSI SE 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Ice Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 21,135 miles. £5,795

Citroen Berlingo 2.0 HDi Multispace Desire 5-Door Estate

Finished in Artic Steel Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 69,500 miles. £3,995

2006 Fiat Punto 1.2 Active 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Astral Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 41,430 miles. £4,495* **Now £3,295***

2006 Ford Ka 1.3 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Colorado Red with a Black Cloth interior, 56,500 miles. Was £3,995. **Now £3,295***

2002 Daewoo Tacuma 1.6 SE 5-Door MPV

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*Correct at time of going to press.

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C2, 1.1i Vibe 3dr Hatch, gJ08ah, pas, abs, remote central locking, radio/cd, trip computer, passenger airbag, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, immobiliser, silver, 19750 miles, £5395, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

C2, GT 16v 3dr, ca04ywp, power steering, electric windows, air bag, cd player, colour coded body, cloth upholstery, rear wash/wipe, stability control, isofix, rear spoiler, folding rear seats, rear headrests, remote central locking, 16" alloys, red, 31000 miles, £3999, Maidstone, 01622 200 110 (TRADE)

C2, 1.4i VTR 3dr Hatch, gJ59ke, pas, abs, air conditioning, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, trip computer, passenger airbag, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, front head restraints, full size spare wheel, service indicator, steel wheels, immobiliser, rear headrests, isofix child seat anchor points, folding rear seats, body coloured bumpers, cloth seat trim, height adjustable drivers seat, rear wiper, sports seats, audio remote control, black, 25 miles, £7995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i Desire 5dr Hatch Special Edition, gJ56sz, pas, abs, air conditioning, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, trip computer, steering wheel rake adjustment, drivers airbag, rear headrests, isofix child seat anchor points, folding rear seats, service indicator, steel wheels, front head restraints, audio remote control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, body coloured bumpers, rear wiper, cloth seat trim, immobiliser, blue, 13500 miles, £5395, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

C3, Exclusive Plus HDi 5dr, gJ08kyp, air conditioning, power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, cd player, twin air bags, colour coded body, remote central locking, grey, 66000 miles, £5490, Maidstone, 01622 200 110 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, 1.3 MULTIJET SPORT, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 29050 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 POP, 2008, abs brakes cd player electric windows immobiliser power steering tonneau cover remote central locking, bossanova white, 22365 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.2, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 SPORT, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser power steering tonneau cover front remote audio controls, cha cha azure, 1500 miles, £10000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.4 16v T-JET ARBARTH with Upgraded Stereo/Alloys, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows sports seats tonneau cover trip computer remote audio controls, white, 11600 miles, £13000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.2, 2008, black, 55 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.4 LOUNGE, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover remote central locking remote audio controls, bossanova white, 9450 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 POP with AIR CON and BLUE, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning bluetooth car kit electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers height adj drivers seat, white, 29645 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

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500, Pop, 2010, abs brakes bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points, white, 5000 miles, £8800, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, Lounge, 2010, white, 11442 miles, £10000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, Pop, 2010, white, 6 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 16v, 2008, cd player drivers airbag, red, 55 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.4 LOUNGE, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover remote central locking remote audio controls, grey, 35101 miles, £8500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.2, 2008, black, 56 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, Pop, 2009, metallic crossover black, 15527 miles, £8888, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, SPORT, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player central locking electric windows power steering, white, 25726 miles, £8500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 LOUNGE, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 2758 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.4 SPORT, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history half leather trim immobiliser multiple airbags power steering sports seats tinted glass tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags lumbar support rear headrests height adj drivers seat space saver spare wheel, bossanova white, 15611 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.4 ARBARTH T-JET, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint sports seats tonneau cover remote central locking remote audio controls body coloured bumpers rear headrests height adj drivers seat, grey metallic, 9202 miles, £13000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, Sport, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, cream, 6481 miles, £8500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, 1.3 Mjet Lounge, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player metallic paint mp3 player trip computer panoramic sunroof multi functional tuneport (i-pod and mp3 connection) remote audio controls, grey, 4000 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FORD

FIESTA, 5, ea04wfm, insurance group 5 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking steering wheel rake adjustment trip computer 3 owners history, moon dust silver, 55000 miles, £4683, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, ls57oyb, insurance group 7 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser leather seats passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking trip computer 1 owner history, moon dust silver, 26000 miles, £6000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, insurance group 7 abs air conditioning alarm body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors steering wheel rake adjustment trip computer service history, panther black, 56000 miles, £4000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6 Titanium TDCI "Keyless Entry", 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering reverse parking aid trip computer twin airbags curtain airbags front parking sensors remote central locking quickclear windscreen remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, colored red, 3361 miles, £12000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FIESTA, LX TDCI, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats tinted glass trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls adjustable steering column rear headrests height adj drivers seat space saver spare wheel, silver, 36000 miles, £4400, Tunbridge Wells, 08448 759297 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Zetec, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player tinted glass tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers rear headrests 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, moon dust silver, 41500 miles, £7300, Maidstone, 08448 759296 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 style, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player trip computer twin airbags remote central locking body coloured bumpers rear headrests heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, silver, 13538 miles, £7500, Maidstone, 08448 759296 (TRADE)

MONDEO, TDCI Edge, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, blue, 58000 miles, £5600, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, TDCI Edge, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, blue, 58000 miles, £5600, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, TDCI Edge, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, blue, 58000 miles, £5600, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, TDCI Edge, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, blue, 58000 miles, £5600, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, TDCI Edge, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, blue, 58000 miles, £5600, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, TDCI Edge, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, blue, 58000 miles, £5600, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, TDCI Edge, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, blue, 58000 miles, £5600, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, TDCI Edge, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, blue, 58000 miles, £5600, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, TDCI Edge, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, blue, 58000 miles, £5600, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, TDCI Edge, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, blue, 58000 miles, £5600, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, TDCI Edge, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, blue, 58000 miles, £5600, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, TDCI Edge, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, blue, 58000 miles, £5600, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, TDCI Edge, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, blue, 58000 miles, £5600, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

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MONDEO, Zetec, 2008, silver, 36872 miles, £10500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MONDEO, TDCI Titanium X, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats tinted glass traction control trip computer remote central locking, silver, 39319 miles, £12000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0 TDCI Ghia, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls adjustable steering column rear headrests 3x3 point rear seat belts heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, black, 40358 miles, £5000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MONDEO, Edge, 2009, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering split folding rear seats remote central locking remote audio controls body coloured bumpers rear headrests 3x3 point rear seat belts, grey, 35248 miles, £11125, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MONDEO, Titanium X, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player remote central locking, grey, 81300 miles, £9000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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CARENS, 2.0 GS 7 SEATER, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player immobiliser power steering remote central locking, silver, 33000 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CARENS, GS AUTO, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player body coloured bumpers rear headrests heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, star silver, 5800 miles, £9000, Maidstone, 08448 759296 (TRADE)

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CARENS, 2.0, 2008, black, 39 miles, £16000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CARENS, GS, 2009, silver, 35535 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CARENS, GS AUTO, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats twin airbags body coloured bumpers rear headrests heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, star silver, 5800 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CARENS, 2.0 TD Sr, 2008, blue, 164 miles, £16000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

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CARENS, 2.0, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £16220, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CARENS, 2.0, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser, red, 44 miles, £16200, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CARENS, 2.0 TD Sr, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player central locking climate control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser satellite navigation, red, 55 miles, £16200, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CARENS, GS, 2009, black, 30288 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CARENS, 2.0, 2008, black, 39 miles, £16000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CARENS, GS, 2009, silver, 35535 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CARENS, GS AUTO, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player twin airbags body coloured bumpers rear headrests heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, star silver, 5800 miles, £9000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CARENS, 2.0, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £16220, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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MX-5, SE, 2009, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paintremote audio controls, met grey, 3000 miles, £13500, Canterbury, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MX-5, 1.8i CONVERTIBLE, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser single cd player remote central locking adjustable steering column height adj drivers seat, black, 37000 miles, £8500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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PROPERTY NEWS

Maintenance skills lost on younger generation

DIY knowledge that used to be passed down through the generations is now being "lost in the midst of time", Homebuilding & Renovating magazine has said.

The comments follow research by Saga Home Insurance, based in Sandgate, which found that younger people are now far more likely to rely on professional help to fix problems in the home, rather than carry out work themselves.

According to the report, 18 per cent of adults under the age of 40 would pay a tradesman to repair leaking or broken pipes in their property, compared to five per cent who would attempt to mend them personally.

Jason Orme, editor of Homebuilding & Renovating, said many younger homeowners now work such long hours that performing home improvement tasks in their spare time is the "last thing they want to do".

"There is no question that many young people don't tend to have those basic DIY maintenance skills anymore and it is disappointing," he added.

The research from Saga revealed over-50s were three times more likely than under-35s to repair pipes, while more than a quarter of the older age group would replace missing roof tiles, compared with just one per cent of their younger peers.

Market trends causing increase in cost to rent

INCREASED demand and a fall in the supply of new properties led to a rise in rents in the three months to the end of October, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) has reported.

In its latest survey, 39 per cent more surveyors reported seeing an increase, rather than a fall, in rents compared with a positive balance of 27 per cent during the previous three months.

The reading is now at its highest since the second quarter of 2007, tenant demand having been boosted by a shortage of mortgage finance and lenders' demands for high deposits.

Across the UK, London saw the biggest increase in rental prices and even prospects in the North, where rents have been falling, took a turn for the better.

The Institution's spokesperson, Jeremy Leaf, said: "The lettings sector has become increasingly strong over the past nine months, in contrast to the housing market which continues to slow."



South East the best in UK as house price slump continues

■ BY NICK AMES

THE LATEST house price index from the Nationwide Building Society has revealed a 0.3 per cent fall for the month of November compared with October – the fourth time in five months that prices registered a fall.

The latest fall means house prices are now just 0.4 per cent higher than this time last year, with the average UK home costing £163,398.

However, regional variations continue to be a factor – with the South East performing better than other parts of the UK.

Worst figures are for the north of England and Scotland while analysts say good rail and road links and an increase in demand for coastal homes have been factors in making the local market less affected.

But Nationwide's chief economist Martin Gahbauer said house price declines are unlikely to accelerate "in the months ahead".

"There is little to indicate that these sellers need to achieve a sale urgently for financial or economic reasons which means the downward pressure on house prices is only modest," he said.

There is little good news surrounding the housing market currently.

Earlier this week housing intelligence group Hometrack revealed their house prices figures for England and Wales fell for the fifth consecutive month in November.

According to Hometrack house prices fell by 0.8 per cent in the month to £155,000.

Other housing surveys suggest the market is cooling. The Land Registry reported a 0.8 per



FALLING MARKET: As house prices continue to fall mortgage lenders have also seen a drop in numbers of applicants

cent fall in house prices for the month of October, while figures revealed a slump in the number of homes sold in October in the UK.

Expectations

According to government statistics 79,000 homes worth at least £40,000 or more were sold in the month, a fall of 11 per cent on an annual basis.

The number of new mortgages approved in the month fell to 30,766, down from 31,058 in September – representing the lowest level

since March 2009 – when the country was in the midst of its worst recession in decades.

The figures confounded analysts expectations of a rise to 31,300 and continue to suggest the mortgage market will remain subdued over the coming months.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Bank of England have both reported falls in mortgage lending over recent months.

Meanwhile, house prices are expected to continue to come under pressure as new instructions continue to outstrip buyer demand.

Householders encouraged to insulate their homes as cold snap and rising energy costs take a hold

THIS winter has delivered an unexpected early icy blast with some areas already having been subjected to six inches of snow, and with the sub-zero temperatures expected to continue this is an early indication of the long and extremely cold months ahead.

In fact, in some parts of Britain it was actually colder than Greenland, so those householders who failed to check out their home insulation earlier in the year will no doubt be really feeling the cold.

The National Insulation

Association (NIA) is advising that it's never too late to obtain the benefits of home insulation, and householders don't need to sit and suffer for the rest of the winter as there is still time to rectify a home's energy performance.

Alarming

A spokesman for the group said: "Just as your body quickly loses heat if you venture into the cold without extra clothes, un-insulated roofs and walls are letting more than 40 per cent of your

home's energy escape so it is common sense to add a few layers.

"Also, with soaring energy bills and further increases on the horizon, householders should really question whether they can afford to allow this alarming rate of heat loss to continue.

"Cavity wall and loft insulation is straight forward and simple to install, not only making a warmer, cosier home, but dramatically reducing energy bills too.

"In fact, the average household can save around £265 per year

and insulation pays for itself within two years meaning you continue to save money year on year.

"To find out if your home is adequately insulated and how you can improve its energy efficiency, contact a member of the NIA for a free survey. All members of the NIA are governed by a strict code of professional practice and are experienced to recommend the most suitable insulation option for your home as well as information about grants and subsidies you may be eligible for."

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Picture: BROMLEY GREEN FC



EFFORT: Steve Harris heads towards goal on Saturday

No protest from students as Green nick points

FOOTBALL

Bromley Green 3 University of Kent 2

BROMLEY Green are just a point behind Kent County League Division One East leaders APM after a hard-fought win against the University of Kent.

With snow and freezing temperatures disrupting the league schedule for the last two weeks, Green were champing at the bit to make their competitive return. However, Dave Smith's side were heading towards an unlikely home defeat to lowly University of Kent before a brace from Paul Burt and a Dan Cornell strike, clinched a 3-2 win.

The home side made a slow start and were soon punished when University of Kent took the lead on 15 minutes through Daniel

found an equaliser. Burt grabbed his second of the afternoon when he headed in Tom Head's dangerous cross.

Cornell fired a Rocky Hayles through ball into the net with 20 minutes remaining to complete the comeback and secure all three points.

Green, in second spot in the league, host Otford on Saturday as they look to overtake APM at the top of the table.

Elsewhere in the division, Kennington earned their first win of the season by beating Sheppey United 2-1. The result was not enough to move the club off the bottom, but they are only behind their closest rivals Larkfield & New Hythe on goal difference.

CYCLING

Field earns second trophy victory

CYCLO-CROSS rider Ian Field picked up 40 crucial world ranking points with victory in round five of the National Trophy on Sunday.

The Ashford man, who won the last event of the series at Southampton two weeks ago, was forced to battle not only against the tricky muddy course in Bradford, but a bout of serious headaches for the win.

The 23-year-old has been suffering from a trapped nerve in his neck, believed to be the cause of the headaches. He was lucky to escape a heavy crash at the first corner of the opening lap and soon found himself in a comfortable lead, but it wasn't long before pre-race favourites Jody Crawford and Paul Oldham began to reel him in.



TROPHY WIN: Ian Field

Oldham moved onto the tail of Field and the pair rode together for the best part of three laps before the Ashford-born cyclist upped his pace and opened up a gap. Field managed to build a 45-second lead, which proved to be enough to earn him back-to-back National Trophy wins.

He said: "I'm massively surprised because I didn't know how things were going to go competing with headaches and dizziness. I was out in front and that proved to be the best place to be as I managed to avoid the crash at the start. I was put under pressure a few times but I eventually managed to get away."

Field is expected to return to the World Cup series on Sunday for round five of the championship in Kalmthout, Belgium.



Picture: GOR KURCO

ON FORM AND ON TOP: Ashford winger Joe Lakin (left) scored the first try of the game against Sittingbourne at the weekend, which was set up by a strong home side pack

Ashford out of the blocks quickly to see off Bourne

RUGBY

■ BY TOM HOWARD

Ashford 29 Sittingbourne 12

A DESTRUCTIVE first-half display helped Ashford take another step towards the Kent 1 title as they earned a bonus point victory at home to the division's previous leaders, Sittingbourne.

The season may only be reaching the half way point, but a convincing win against their nearest rivals moved the club to the top of Kent 1.

The game started with the home side immediately on the back foot as Sittingbourne scored a converted try from the kick-off. The hosts failed to deal with the ball in their half and were stunned to find themselves 7-0 behind.

Pete Walsh's side soon settled into the clash and JJ Murray cut the deficit to four points with a well-struck penalty. The momentum turned in the favour of Ashford when winger

Joe Lakin scored his side's first try of the afternoon on 15 minutes.

The try was the first of four in quick succession as Ashford dominated the remainder of the half. Walsh scored his side's second, Liam Murray added a third and JJ Murray scored a fourth to secure the bonus point before the break.

Ashford continued to battle in the second-half but they were unable to add to their tally. The game finished with Sittingbourne scoring a

consolation try in the final minute, but the victory moves Walsh's side to the top of the division.

A delighted club captain Walsh said: "It was an unbelievable win for us. It was by no means an easy game, they pushed us hard and it was tough for us at times. To win scoring four tries just goes to show how well we are playing at the moment. Everything has just come together this season and we have gelled well. The other thing is we have a great squad and strength in depth, so if we do have to make changes I have got players to come in."

"It is early and we must not lose our momentum but to win promotion would be brilliant. I have been at the club for years and we have the talent to play in the London leagues."

Ashford will aim to remain top of the division heading into the Christmas break, when they host Whitstable on Saturday.

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Jarre admits summer upheaval had him looking to leave Kent

CRICKET

BY GLENN PEARSON

MARTIN van Jaarsveld has revealed that he did look at his options away from St Lawrence this summer, but has confirmed he will be lining up for Kent in Division Two next season.

The South African was rumoured to be among a group of players concerned about Kent's precarious financial state towards the end of last season. Interest in the batsman, who has consistently scored more than 1,000 runs a season in his six years at Kent, resurfaced, this time from Lancashire.

The 36-year-old had previously turned down an offer to captain Surrey during the 2009 summer, instead signing a three-year contract at St Lawrence, but concerns about whether the club could add to its wafer-thin playing staff had the dressing room fearing the worst.

Now van Jaarsveld, who preferred not to comment on speculation about his future during the season, has lifted the lid on the reasons why he looked elsewhere, but is now ultimately committed to helping Kent back to the County Championship's Division One.

"The permutations were pretty much family orientated," he said, speaking from his home in Pretoria. "At one stage in the summer I was



Picture: Andy Kerr

STAYING: Martin van Jaarsveld (right) looked at his options elsewhere, but will be lining up for Kent next season, while Chris Piesley (left) has signed a one-year deal slightly concerned with the financial issues at the club; whether there would be any backing to bring in new blood or sign a few new bowlers. It came across that things at the club were pretty tight. The picture painted at the time was pretty bleak, but now the development has started there's been talk of an overseas bowler and that's really had an input and changed the picture.

"It was more of a career point of view and a family point of view that maybe I looked elsewhere. But at the moment I am pretty happy at Kent and I'm looking forward to helping the

boys back into the first division."

Recruiting a bowler or two is high on the wish-list for next season, although finances and the availability of players as a result of the Indian Premier League will determine whether that comes off. Wayne Parnell, the South African left-arm seamer who spent some time at Kent in 2009, is one potential target and van Jaarsveld believes adding to the bowling stocks is a step that needs to be taken.

"It's massive. No disrespect to the guys who bowled this season, but we need someone with the X factor up front," he said. "If you can get a team on the ropes early doors and if you want to win any four-day game, you have to get 20 wickets."

"[Parnell] did really well when he was here before and the added incentive if he were to come back was that he brings Treddy [James Tredwell] into the game. If Parny could come, it would be a really good signing for us."

The Transvaal-born right-hander, who played nine Test matches and 11 One-Day Internationals for his country, plans to spend the winter in South Africa working on his game, but is yet to decide whether to play any club cricket.

• **Three Kent youngsters have signed new development contracts at St Lawrence.**

Left-hand batsman Chris Piesley and off-spinner Adam Riley have signed one-year deals, while former England under-19 wicketkeeper Sam Billings – who will act as Geraint Jones' deputy next season – has signed a two-year contract.

SUNDAY LEAGUE



DEFEATED: Troggs (in blue) were well beaten

Five-goal thriller leads the way in busy weekend

BETHERSDEN boosted their Ashford & District Sunday League Premier Division title hopes by edging out Kennington in a five-goal thriller.

Only three points separated the sides going into the game and the 3-2 score line proved how close the clubs are in comparison. However, a brace from Tom Ripley and a strike from Pete Sikora was enough to claim all three points and cancelled out goals from Sam Conlon and Jordan Workman. Bethersden moved into third place in the league as a result of the victory.

The only other game in the division saw Hamstreet inflict a 3-1 home defeat on Highfield. Goals from Terry King and Jamie Bartholomew gave Street a 2-0 lead at the break and the points looked secure for the visitors.

The hosts pulled a goal back through Lloyd Dehara and they continued to press for an equaliser until they were caught on the break and Shay McGuinness clinched the win by netting a third.

Bliby suffered a heavy 6-2 defeat at the hands of Maidstone side Star United to end their Kent Sunday Cup hopes. Marcus Hodges scored both goals in the drubbing. Ashford Spartans and Queens Head Rangers progressed to the full county draw of the Junior Trophy by putting out Ashford Cavaliers and Givaudan 6-2 and 1-0 respectively.

A hat-trick from Craig Haynes helped Egerton & Pluckley United to a 5-0 thrashing of Troggs. Aaron Dry and Cameron Forbes were also on target for the division's strugglers. Mersham recorded a 4-2 win against Aldington, while Market Hotel reserves came from behind to beat Galacticos 5-2.

Albion Eagles booked a place in the Division Three Cup semi-final with a 2-0 win against Park Farm Rangers. Howard Baker and Paul Hayman were on the score sheet for the Eagles.

LEAGUE TABLE

(Not including midweek games)

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Herne Bay	13	7	5	1	+10	26
2 VCD Athletic	11	7	3	1	+7	24
3 Beckenham Town	11	7	2	2	+9	23
4 Erith Town	13	6	4	3	+8	22
5 Greenwich Borough	11	7	0	4	+17	21
6 Hythe Town	9	6	1	2	+10	19
7 Sevenoaks Town	12	5	1	6	-3	16
8 Deal Town	12	5	1	6	-7	16
9 Tunbridge Wells	9	4	3	2	+9	15
10 Norton Sports	12	3	6	3	0	15
11 Fisher	12	3	2	7	-7	11
12 Corinthian	12	3	2	7	-9	11
13 Erith & Belvedere	8	3	1	4	-2	10
14 Holmesdale	13	2	4	7	-9	10
15 Lordswood	11	2	2	7	-7	8
16 Sporting Bengal United	13	2	1	10	-26	7

FIXTURES (Saturday):

Kent Senior Trophy: Norton Sports v **Hythe Town** (1.30pm kick-off); Kent County League Division One East: **Bromley Green** v

Orford United; **Kennington** v Milton & Fulston United

Defensive lapses put an end to Town's vase hopes

FOOTBALL

Leiston 3 Hythe Town 1

A RARE bad day at the office saw Hythe Town's FA Vase run end in Suffolk on Saturday against a strong Leiston side.

Brendon Cass' late goal was a mere consolation, coming after defensive lapses had allowed the home side to race into a 3-0 lead.

The afternoon might have been different if Dave Cook's first-half header had gone in rather than rebounding off the crossbar to safety, but Town boss Scott Porter had no complaints with the result.

He said: "We made three defensive mistakes and got punished for it. We didn't play at our best, which you have to do against sides like that if you want to take anything from the game."

"We didn't really turn up, but we have been on a very good run so I can't fault the lads and we can't dwell on this too much."

With the two main cup competitions now out of the way, Hythe can finally concentrate on their main goal – winning the Kent League. They were in action at home to Erith & Belvedere last night knowing a victory would send them up to fourth, with up to three games in hand on the sides above them.

Porter said: "I would much rather win three points than get through in the Vase. We want to get out of this league and any-



Picture: Ikon KIRPO

CONSOLATION: Brendon Cass scored Hythe's only goal

thing we did in the cups was always a bonus."

Log on to www.yourashford.co.uk for the details from last night's game. Hythe visit Norton Sports in the Kent Senior Trophy on Saturday.

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